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NARRATIVE

OF A

FIVE YEARS' RESIDENCE

AT

NEPAUL.

BY CAPTAIN THOMAS SMITH,
ASSISTANT POLITICAL-RESIDENT AT NEPAUL.
FROM 1841 TO 1845.

IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. I.

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TO

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

THE DUCHESS OF CAMBRIDGE,

THIS WORK

IS, BY GRACIOUS PERMISSION,

Inscribed,

WITH FEELINGS OF DEEP RESPECT,

BY HER ROYAL HIGHNESS'S DEVOTED SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

LOOKING to the friendly character of the relations which exist between England and Nepaul, and considering the position which Nepaul already holds in Anglo-Indian history, it has appeared to the Author that, in writing an account of that country, nothing should be omitted which can throw light on its characteristics and history. In addition, therefore, to the narrative of his residence there; his account of the wild sports and the productions of the soil, and the description of the wars of 1814 and 1816, he has deemed it indispensable to append a Memoir of the late General

Sir David Ochterlony, who was not only the conqueror of Nepaul, after all other Generals had failed, but was one of the finest, best, and bravest soldiers the Indian army ever had to boast.

Besides this Memoir, it has been considered expedient to publish an account of the formation and services of the Sirmoor battalion—a corps of Goorkhalees, formed out of the Nepaulese, after the hills had fallen under the British yoke.

Other works have appeared in reference to Nepaul; but the Author of the present one confidently believes that no complete account of the kingdom, and all that relates to it, has been published until now.

LONDON,
MAY, 1852.

CONTENTS

OF

THE FIRST VOLUME.

PAGE

INTRODUCTION 1

CHAPTER I.

PERSONAL ADVENTURES 7

CHAPTER II.

TOPOGRAPHY OF NEPAUL . . . 52

CHAPTER III.

CLIMATE AND PRODUCTION OF NEPAUL . 64

CHAPTER IV.

THE ANIMALS OF NEPAUL; WITH SOME NARRATIVES OF SPORT IN THE FOREST . . 75

CHAPTER V.

PAGE
THE INHABITANTS OF NEPAUL, ESPECIALLY THE MILITARY TRIBES . . . 124

CHAPTER VI.

MANNERS—CUSTOMS—LAWS . . . 138

CHAPTER VII.

HISTORY OF NEPAUL 154

CHAPTER VIII.

WARLIKE PRELIMINARIES . . . 172

CHAPTER IX.

THE WAR CONTINUED 221

CHAPTER X.

THE WAR CONTINUED 238

CHAPTER XI.

THE WAR CONTINUED 248

CHAPTER XII.

THE WAR CONTINUED 270

INTRODUCTION.

It was remarked by a celebrated Prime Minister, in speaking of a General of high character and professional attainments, and of unquestionable courage, but who had always been unfortunate in war, that he wanted only one quality to constitute him a great warrior—namely, success. Whatever may be the errors committed in the course of a campaign, if the ultimate issue be favourable, the verdict of society stamps the fortunate commander a "great" General.

"Success" is undoubtedly a superb feather in the cap of a soldier. It hallows blunders,

and consecrates follies;—it is at once an answer, an apology, and a justification. The Poles were *traitors* because they failed at Grodno and Ostrolenka; had they triumphed, Skrynecski would have been elevated to the rank of a hero, and the Emperor of all the Russias degraded to the condition of a monster.

There is, however, another accident indispensable to the elevation of a military man. Whatever may be his natural talents, however extensive his professional attainments—though his courage be indomitable and his acquaintance with the "bookish theoric" something prodigious, he remains for ever in obscurity, if he does not at some time or other enjoy the blessing of opportunity. Nine-tenths of the officers of the British army are, to all appearance, cast in the same mould. They have the same ideas, the same aspirations; are animated by the same motives, governed by the same principles, and are nearly of the same degree of capacity. But the opportunity of achieving distinction alone establishes their

relative powers. It is then that individual genius manifests itself. Opportunity is the crucible which tests the quality of the military metal — it is the talismanic touch which evokes the latent qualities of the man. Abercrombie did not enjoy his opportunity until he was sixty years of age. Herbert Edwardes wrought fame out of opportunity at twenty-seven. Nelson and Cochrane, impatient of obscurity, *made* their opportunities.

I do not mean this brief homily to be accepted as the herald of the results of my own temporary good fortune, but simply as an illustration of what chance will achieve for almost any soldier. Accident made me an extra aide-de-camp, and the circumstances which attended my employment, in that capacity led to my subsequent transfer to Nepaul. Had the same chances been available to any one of my brother officers, similar, if not much higher, consequences might have ensued from their fortune. Who can doubt it that remembers the illustrious names of Lawrence,

Lake, Herbert, Abbott, Brown, Cunningham, Nicholson, Broadfoot, Hammersley, Pottinger, Macgregor, Hore, Backhouse, Christie, &c., each of whom demonstrated of what fine elements the Indian army is composed? But for the accidents of war they might all have lingered in hopeless obscurity. Affghanistan, Scinde, the Sutlej, the Punjaub, and Gwalior, revived the glories of Seringapatam and Laswarrie, Kirkee and Setabuldee, Nepaul, Burmah, and Bhurtpore. Without those five modern campaigns, how many bright spirits might have wasted their power in an inglorious barrack life—how long the Government might have continued in ignorance of the brilliant talents which have enabled it not merely to check and subdue, but to control, reconcile, and civilize the rude warrior nations which encircle the British Indian empire from the Runn of Cutch to the mouths of the Irrawaddy!

The happy accident which removed me from the routine of regimental duty, and gave me the means of collecting the materials of the

present work, does not indeed entitle me to a place in the catalogue of heroes whose names I have quoted, but it may not, in its details, prove altogether destitute of interest, and may, therefore, be narrated as a suitable prologue to the more important description of Nepaul.

MEMORIALS OF NEPAUL.

CHAPTER I.

PERSONAL ADVENTURES.

A VERY few years of service in India suffice to try the constitution of a soldier. If he is not compelled by the duties of his profession to confront the rays of a mid-day sun, ten to one but he finds an excuse for his rashness in the temptations of the chase. The tigers and leopards of the plains, the bears and wild deer of the hills, and the elephants and rhinoceroses of the jungle, supply a hundred reasons for exposure to the greatest climatic dangers, and

send home a youth, before he emerges from subaltern rank, a victim to fever, chronic *hepatitis*, rheumatism, or general derangement. It is hardly worth while to enter into a specific detail either of the diseases which forced me to quit India on sick furlough, or of the quality of the field-pastime which originated my disorder. Let it suffice, that in 1838, being then a Lieutenant in the Bengal army, I was obliged to seek a restoration to health in my native country, and that the month of April 1840, found me once more in India (at Bombay), after a very pleasant overland trip from England, through France, Italy, and Egypt. The passage to India by the overland route is now so well known, and has been described by so many abler pens than mine, that the reader may also be spared my impressions thereanent. After being diligenced through France, steamed to Genoa, Civita Vecchia, and Alexandria, and donkeyed through Egypt to Suez, I was carried down the Red Sea to Aden, and thence to Bombay. The retrospect of the voyage recalls one circumstance

which greatly amused me on the way from Marseilles, in the 'Rhameses,' French steam-packet, to Malta. We had a motley collection of passengers on board. There were expired-leave Indian officers going to join their regiments; inquisitive Yankees bent upon sight-seeing, and the accumulation of a few notions regarding Cheops and Ghiza; and last, not least, there was a glory-seeking body of French officers who were about to enter the service of the Shah of Persia—honest haters of England and everything English, who comported themselves under the idea that they were destined to show a Persian army the way to India. Several of them, after smoking my tobacco from Marseilles to Malta (they appeared to have none of their own), took an affectionate farewell of me, promising that we should shortly again meet on the banks of the Sutlej, when I should be well treated by them, and enjoy all the indulgences a prisoner of war could possibly expect! Not wishing to be outdone in kindness of intention, I assured them they should have

quarter in the anticipated contest, provided they shouted out "Rhameses," and "Malta." A few *sacrés* followed and we parted. I cannot pass over two characters we had on board the 'Rhameses'—one was a young Capuchin monk, dressed in the gaberdine of his order, and bound for Mecca. He was zealous in his calling, and bent upon allowing neither Mahomet nor his coffin any longer to remain between heaven and earth. He was resolved to bring him, coffin and all, once more on *terra firma*, and to settle the question at issue as to who was the greatest impostor on earth. This well "intintioned" missionary I soon after discovered was an Irishman, and a better informed or more amusing fellow I never met with. He astonished me one morning by addressing me in English with a highly finished Irish accent. He was neither teetotaller nor drunkard, but entertained and practised very proper notions on the subject of the beverages of civilized man.

The monk and the French invader of India, General D——s, had numerous and daily

arguments on every subject—war in particular, the invincibility of the French troops being the General's favourite topic. The Frenchman bombarded the monk with Austerlitz, Marengo, and Lodi; Waterloo, he said, was a compound of treachery and mistakes, and in fact we were fairly beaten upon all principles of war, ancient and modern—only we would not admit it. That the English mode of fighting was simply "boxèè-boxèè"—that civilized nations would not recognise it; and all the French wanted was time to get wind and a few lessons in boxèè. The General (who never appeared twice in the same coat or uniform, and that always covered with a profusion of orders, many resembling gridirons, toasting forks, and undertaker's coffin-plates) one day came on deck in a French attempted Newmarket-cut sporting coat, with enormous bronze buttons, embellished with heads of stags, lions, tigers, horses, &c. Sitting down to dinner the monk quietly remarked:—"Ha, General, I have converted you! I am glad to see you in an English sporting coat—

buttons and all." "Sacré," said old Dumas, "I only wear this coat occasionally to remind me of the great men of England as you call them, and here they are! That pig's head is Grey—that leopard is Palmerston," and so on—enumerating the Whig Ministry. "But," said the monk, "you have forgotten one of the greatest men England lays claim to—where have you placed Wellington? "Sacré nom de Dieu," exclaimed Dumas; "no, I have not! here he is!" exultingly rising up and pointing to a button behind. "There is the 'Foutre.'" The monk exclaimed, "Ah, good General, you have only done him justice! You have him where you always had him; you never liked him in front!"

The shouts of laughter that ensued aroused the General to the mistake he had committed, and he left the cabin swearing in choice French, vowing his determination to button us in front with a Persian army and drive us out of India.

On arrival in Bombay I found there was no ship to sail immediately for Calcutta, and by

the then existing regulations (viz., that no officer could draw his Indian allowances until he had reported himself in his own Presidency) myself and friend (an officer in the 6th Bengal Cavalry, since dead) determined at once to march from Bombay to Mhow, (a distance of four hundred miles) in the month of June. After having made every arrangement, we started and roughed it amazingly, *vid* Baroach and Baroda. This march gave me an introduction to the Bombay officers. Better men never lived; their hospitality was unbounded, and there was the greatest difficulty in getting away from them. Our side of India call them "ducks;" why they are so called seems not to have been quite settled: one version is, their fondness for the Bummelow fish, salted and dried, called duck. Another, and current in the Presidency, is, that during our Pindaree and Maharatta campaigns the Bombay troops kept the field in their tents (not the best in India), and used to visit their guards and make their reports on charpoys (or rude India couches)

floated on pots—a common practice among natives during a very high overflow of the rivers in the rains. Be this as it may, take the Bombay officers as a body, they are a right good set of men, rough and ready, and hospitable in the extreme. As to their fighting qualities, the Deccan, Ghuznee, and Khelat, the Persian Gulf, and Mooltan, have borne ample testimony that the Duck is a very rough customer.

I arrived at Mhow, the only station in the Bombay Presidency in which Bengal troops were then serving. The force consisted only of a troop of horse artillery under then Captain, now Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrenson, with Captains Edward Christie and Apperly, both since dead: the former killed in the retreat from Chillianwallah, where he had a troop, and the latter a victim to fever. On arriving at Mhow I took up my quarters with poor Christie, and of course called upon the General commanding there, Major-General Brooks, well known as one of the best officers in the Bombay army. I received the greatest attention from the General;

it made the deeper impression by reason of the difference of our respective ranks. The setting in of the rains prevented my proceeding at once to join my regiment in Bengal; I was therefore compelled to remain at Mhow. Our affairs in Scinde were at this time anything but satisfactory. The political and military authorities were at issue. The Murrees, a tribe of hill Scindians, had given us an awful lesson at Nafoosk, in the destruction of the detachment under Major Clibborn; Lieutenant (late Major) Lewis Brown, the bravest of the brave, held Khahun besieged by hordes; in fact, all the Scinde hills and plains were rising, and as recent events under Sir Charles Napier have proved, at the instigation of the treacherous Ameers—Meer Roostam being the greatest fool (seventy-nine years old), was also proved to be a great knave; whilst Ali Moorad, the knave, was allowed to turn Queen's evidence, and obtain what he had for years been seeking—the destruction of the Khyrpoor dynasty and possession of the Ghuddee or throne.

It became necessary, in consequence of the disturbed state of Lower Scinde to despatch a force to the frontier; and as the rank and position of Major-General Brooks pointed him out as a fit person for the command, he received instructions from the government accordingly. As a Bengal officer I had no desire to share in this expedition, but the General having done me the honour to conceive a favourable opinion of my personal activity, he further marked his sense of that quality by appointing me his aide-de-camp. To this accident I am indebted for my share in the events I am about to describe.

The route from Mhow to Scinde, dictated by ordinary convenience and a regard to speed, was rather roundabout, because of apparent topographical difficulties. A dawk (or palanquin post) journey to Bombay, and thence by steam up a portion of the Indus, was the most obvious course; and by this route Major-General Brooks proceeded to join his command in Scinde. But it was impossible for me to take the same route, by reason of the expense and

the deadly character of the jungle which intervened, and which made it a matter of serious difficulty to procure more than one set of bearers at a time. No other way then presented itself but to march across the great Beccaneer Desert to Sukkur, and an order was accordingly issued by the General directing me to join him with all possible speed.

Determined to obey the order, although the route had never been attempted before, I sold off my marching establishment at a frightful loss, and procured five riding camels of questionable power, and started at once, *vid* Indore, to Neemuch. I here got the doubtful camels changed, and at once faced the great Indian Desert—a distance, going as straight as I could, of six hundred and eighty miles. At Indore I stayed a few days with the then hospitable Resident, Sir C. M. Wade. At Neemuch, a British military station, I remained to get everything ready. Several friends in the 4th Bengal Lancers then stationed at Neemuch, assured me I had a very pleasant *grind* before

me, and pronounced it impossible I could ever reach Sukkur, in Scinde, safely. I had undertaken the trip, however, and was not to be daunted by any sinister reports. A sporting Ketmutgar (or table attendant) volunteered to accompany me, little bargaining for the penalty his spirit of enterprise was to pay. I was pleased with the fellow's pluck, and as he seemed much to approve of a pair of leathers and jack-boots I wore for the occasion, I procured him a pair of second-hand horse artillery breeches and Wellington boots, which delighted him much. I shall never forget the hearty laugh set up by a well-known sporting and gallant son of Nimrod's (an officer in the 4th Lancers) when my Ketmutgar (Peer Bux) appeared booted and breeched, on the top of the largest of the five camels I had, to announce all ready. Off I started with many good wishes.

Those only who have travelled from Damascus to Bagdad, from Mecca to Bussorah, or from Graham's Town to the Great African River, can form an idea of the peculiar irksome-

ness—to use no stronger term—of a desert journey. The boundless expanse of glittering sand—the double heat of solar reflection and refraction—the absence of a single pleasing object to variegate the monotony of the trip—the broad glare assailing the optics—the paucity of water springs, lakes, and other reservoirs, and the brackishness of the water they supply—the want of friendly companionship—the extremely uneasy and fatiguing motion of the camel—all combine to render these trips the least attractive and desirable of any a traveller can adopt. I found my guide had not exaggerated the *désagrémens* of our pilgrimage. Had I been leisurely pursuing my journey with all the customary appurtenances to a march—tents, servants, books, provisions, &c.—I dare say the monotony of the progress would have been essentially mitigated; but my sole object being speed, I was compelled to submit to every imaginable discomfort, or leave my bones to whiten on the arid plain.

The guide proposed we should call at Joud-

pore. We did so, and exchanged three of the camels. Here I picked up a famous riding camel, Tippoo Sahib by name, for which I paid three hundred rupees (thirty pounds). A finer animal never had hump on his back. He carried me the six hundred and eighty miles in twelve days, and was fresh going into Sukkur.

But I am anticipating. From Joudpore—a large town in the province of Ajmere—we pushed on at a terrific pace.

Three of the camels and three men died from fatigue. We were sadly put to our straits for water, and suffered tremendously from the heat. My cheeks and nose were frightfully blistered, and my eyes, a fiery red, almost lost the faculty of sight. After travelling three hundred miles of this wide and scorching desert, my Ketmutgar showed symptoms of fatigue and alarm, having seen one camel and rider give up the ghost very suddenly. His leather inexpressibles having firmly attached themselves to his skin, he was in great agony, and begged I would allow him

to lie down and die. This I of course refused, telling him we had only fifty miles more to accomplish; and thus I got him on, and brought him safely to Roree, but in a burning fever. The quantity of oil expended in getting his breeches off was great After great attention he recovered.

On arriving at Sukkur, and reporting myself to the commanding officer, I found that the Major-General had not arrived, nor did he reach the place for a fortnight afterwards. I shall not readily forget his surprise when I called upon him. He would hardly at first credit the means by which I had anticipated him. "Well," said he, "you are the man for me!" I had hardly recovered from my toilsome journey, when I was appointed Commandant of a wing of that splendid and oft-tried Irregular corps of Cavalry, the First Local, or Skinner's Horse. Their services in all our Indian campaigns have been so well and properly described, that I could add little to their glory by recording the results of my own observations. They soon

had an opportunity of distinguishing themselves at Dadur, where poor young Lieutenant Loveday was brutally murdered. Many were killed and wounded in that memorable encounter with the Beeloochees. And here I recall a circumstance which serves to show the *esprit de corps* of the distinguished regiment. — Skinner's Horse, all Indian officers know, wear yellow cotton jackets, well padded with cotton, and then sewn closely, an arrangement which not only fits them to the figure, but almost makes them sword-proof. There were very few of the men employed at Dadur whose jackets, during their numerous charges, had not come in contact with a Beelooch sabre: the consequence was, the cotton immediately burst out, and gave them, with their now white gashes on yellow ground, a rather odd appearance. One day after parade, I requested the native officers to have the men's jackets repaired. They replied, "Very well, Sir." In about an hour afterwards, however, several Ressildars and Duffedars (native officers) waited on me, and said they

had a favour to ask. I wished to know what it was, when the senior, old "Zubberdust Khan," answered,—"We beg for ourselves and the men that you will allow the jackets to remain as they are, until we return to Hindostan and get new ones. We all wish to keep these jackets to show how sharp Beelooch swords are, and what they got for damaging our jackets the *Gazette* will show." Their request was complied with, and they were pleased.

Our affairs in Scinde, in November 1840, were, as we have said, anything but satisfactory. The gallant Brown had just brought his handful of men from Kahun, after being beleaguered by the Beeloochees for many weeks; the Murrees were up in arms; the Bhooghees and Jhakceranees ditto; Nusseer Khan had evacuated Khelat, and taken up a strong position near our post at Kotree, and threatened it with four thousand picked men; Colonel Marshall, who commanded at Kotree, had only thirteen hundred bayonets, sixty Irregular Cavalry, and two guns—six-pounders—wherewith to oppose this

force. It was soon found that a large Beeloochee army, seven thousand strong, had assembled at and near Khunda, to cut off all intercourse between Colonel Marshall and General Brooks. Several attempts had been made to communicate with Marshall's force, but had failed. His imminent danger soon became known to the political agent, Mr. Ross Bell, and General Brooks commanding the field army,—and fortunate, indeed, was it that so able, gallant, and sagacious an officer as Brooks commanded at such a crisis. He well knew that the destruction of Marshall's force would be the signal for a rising among all the hill tribes; and as surely would the Ameers of Hyderabad and Khyrpoor have thrown off the mask, and risen *en masse*. A diversion was consequently necessary. We had not troops enough in Scinde for any counter operations, so the General at once, therefore, determined upon Colonel Marshall's acting on the offensive, and attacking the Khan of Khelat in his position. A difficulty arose as to the

means of communicating his orders. The several attempts to convey instructions had all been frustrated; the parties despatched either returning baffled in their enterprise, or getting cut up by the enemy. The General at last sent for me, and told me he had a most arduous and dangerous trust to commit to me; that much, indeed everything, depended on its successful execution; that if Marshall's force were destroyed, a general insurrection would take place, and the consequences be most disastrous. I asked him what I could do, saying I was most willing to undertake any enterprise. He said—"I have fixed upon you as the most likely man to carry my despatches, from the endurance you displayed in making your way from Neemuch to Sukkur, through the Beccaneer Desert. I want you to carry out my orders to Colonel Marshall, at Kotree, to attack the Khan of Khelat in his present position, before he is reinforced by the large bodies of Beeloochees now moving towards him."

I told him I was quite prepared to make the

attempt, and if I fell, he would do me justice in reporting what I had accomplished, as I had friends in England to whom it would be some consolation to know I had done my duty. He promised me faithfully he would, and was much affected when I left, saying—"We are all soldiers, and, when required, must do even more than our duty."

After receiving my despatches, I started in the afternoon, and once more mounted my favourite camel, Tippoo Sahib, which was so fresh that I had no control over him for twelve miles. He then came to hand; and this camel carried me one hundred and ten miles, without halt, in thirty hours. I then pulled up at a small outpost, held by forty men of the Resident's escort (cavalry), under Lieutenant Richardson. He informed me the Beeloochees were out in great numbers, and an attempt to get to Colonel Marshall's post was quite hopeless; but he gallantly offered to aid me in the attempt with his handful of men, and would have done so had I allowed him. But

I pointed out to him that if it were to be achieved at all, it must be by a very small party. I selected three of his men, who readily volunteered to accompany me, and after partaking of a bottle of beer and part of a cold fowl, we started about four P.M., on a tremendous hot afternoon.

After proceeding some eight miles, we came in sight of the body of Beeloochees through whom we had to force our way. There were some dry and very deep water-courses before us, and, as it was useless at daylight to attempt to make our way, we went down into one of these, muffling our horses. We remained here within a mile of the Beelooch encampment for five long hours, and at about eleven, after regaling and chatting a long time, they all lay down to sleep. I then crept up the bank, and finding all quiet, I beckoned my three followers up. We were all disguised; I wore an enormous Beeloochee turban over my helmet, and a posteen or Affghan cloak, made of sheepskin, over my uniform. Ordering the strictest silence, not a

word to be spoken, but the men to move by me, I led the way. We went on very quietly until we got to about the middle of the cluster of Beeloochees, when we were challenged. No reply was given. A second and third challenge, and then a general movement—tom-tom beating —men shouting—horses neighing, many of them mounting (nearly half were cavalry) : the infantry began to fire, but at first well over us. It was now time to make the running, and off we went. My unfortunate Ketmutgar, the sporting youth aforesaid, turned back, however, in a panic, and was cut up. On we dashed. Lead was flying thickly, and two of the men were wounded, one in the shoulder, and one in the hip. I had many broad hints in the shape of whistling bullets. At last we got clear of the camp, and pulled up for a few minutes to give our horses wind. We soon, however, heard a heavy tramp behind us, and ascertained a large body of cavalry were moving after us at speed. There was no time to hesitate. On we went again, the tramp nearing us rapidly ;

indeed, dark as it was, their dust was now visible. All on a sudden we were brought up by the dry bed of a river. Down we went, man over horse, and horse over man; we could stick at nothing, and a precious roll I got. We immediately righted, however, and a thought struck me that now our only chance lay in following the bed of this dry river. We did so for some four hundred yards, then pulled up and dismounted, and muffling our well-blown nags, we heard the mass of Beelooch cavalry pass through just where we had turned off. There must have been a very large body of them. We remained perfectly quiet, and in about an hour we heard them return, this time at a walk, shouting and talking very loudly. Back they went, to our delight, without examining the bed of the river. Half-an-hour afterwards, we pulled our horses out of the deep bed, and went off at speed to Colonel Marshall's camp, where I arrived at four o'clock the morning following the day of my departure.

The Colonel was called, and greatly surprised

was he at seeing a British officer there from head-quarters with despatches.

The troops got under arms immediately. I had some refreshment, got a fresh horse, received command of the cavalry, one hundred and twenty Irregulars. Forward! was the word, and after a march of seven miles we came up with Nusseer Khan, the Khan of Khelat. He was admirably posted. We waited here for upwards of an hour, until a flanking party of four hundred men, under the gallant Major Teasdale, of the 25th Bombay N.I., shewed their heads. This brave man was afterwards killed at Meanee, leading as gallant a body of men as John Company ever possessed—the 25th Regiment of Bombay N.I.

Nusseer Khan, confident in the superior number of his troops, did not refuse battle when it was offered him. The action commenced at 9 A.M., and, after some stiff fighting, at 4 P.M. we had thrashed the Beeloochees thoroughly. We only took one hundred and thirty prisoners, but of these eighteen were

chiefs, the principal being Meer Bohur Khan, the Commander-in-Chief, and his son, Morad Khan, who were initiated into camel equitation by being sent at once prisoners, under my charge, to Sukkur head-quarters.

The only rest I had was during the time the despatches were being written by Colonel Marshall. When ready, off I started, with an injured hip, on the right side; returning to, and arriving at head-quarters (one hundred and fifty miles) at the same pace as that at which I went out, seriously injuring the antipodes of Meer Bohur Khan and his son, Morad Khan, who, during their camel trip, frequently begged of me to put them to death like soldiers, rather than shake their insides out on camels.

On reaching the Residency at two in the morning, and General Brooks being informed I had arrived, he rose and greeted me. He could scarcely believe I had been there. His impression was that I had been compelled to abandon the undertaking, and return. I was so exhausted that I requested him to read the despatches which were in my sabretache, and

which I could not even take out. He did so. His surprise and joy were excessive. I met with the kindest reception from him and Mr. Ross Bell, the Resident, and experienced every care and attention. I was confined to my bed for a fortnight for my sins, weak, bruised, wearied, and fevered. But I had a capital febrifuge and consolation in the orders issued on the occasion by the Governor-General of India.

Nusseer Khan, the Khan of Khelat, escaped before Major Teasdale's flanking-party came up, but all his baggage, tents, camels, ammunition, &c., fell into our hands, even to the very bed he slept on. The hilly nature of the country rendered pursuit by our nearly worn out troops worse than useless. The result of the action, however, left Nusseer Khan helpless, and he and his young mother, Bibi Gunga, soon surrendered themselves to the British authorities, after some political flirting on both sides. The Beloochees never met us again on their hills after the lesson of Colonel Marshall, but were induced to make their last

attempt in hordes at Meanee and Hyderabad three years subsequently, when the gallant Napier gave the *coup de grace* to their power, by extinguishing the authority of the Ameers, and adding Scinde to the British Indian possessions.

I am enabled to add to this rough narrative, the gratifying orders of the Governor-General referred to above. They are at once confirmatory of my tale, and complimentary to the parties engaged in the campaign.

Government Gazettes, and Records of Services, of Captain T. Smith, Assistant Political-Resident at Nepaul, during the Years 1840 *and* 1841.

I.

Sukkur, November 2nd, 1840.

My Lord,

I did myself the honour yesterday of reporting my arrival at Sukkur. Among other papers which I found awaiting my arrival, was a General Order from his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, instructing me to remand Lieutenant Smith, of the 15th Regiment Bengal N.I., to his regiment.

The circumstances under which this officer was

appointed extra aide-de-camp by me were peculiar, and as I am most anxious to retain his services, which I find of great value, I consulted Mr. Bell this morning as to whether I could with propriety delay giving effect to his Excellency's order, pending a reference to your Lordship on the subject. Mr. Bell stated his opinion, that, aware as he was of your Lordship's desire that every aid should be afforded to us in this country, he had no hesitation in recommending me to retain Lieutenant Smith's services for the present, and lay before your Lordship my earnest application to be permitted to appoint him my second aide-de-camp. At the time Lieutenant Smith was appointed by me at Mhow, to proceed to Sukkur on my staff, I omitted in the hurry of preparation to observe the necessary formality of applying to the Supreme Government for the services of an officer belonging to the Bengal Presidency. But I am in hopes your Lordship will forgive this omission, and take the application which I have now the honour to submit into your favourable consideration.

I have the honour to be,

With the greatest respect,

Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,

G. BROOKS,

Major-General, Commanding Field Army, Upper Scinde.

To the Rt. Hon. the Governor-general of India.

Head Quarters, Field Army,
Sukkur, 28th November, 1840.

II. (SECRET.)

Sir,

The Political Agent in Upper Scinde having placed your services at the disposal of the Major-General commanding Field Army for temporary duty, I am directed to acquaint you that you are required to carry a secret dispatch of importance to Lieutenant-Colonel Marshall, or Officer commanding at Kotree.

2. Three running camels from my department are placed at your disposal, to enable you to convey this dispatch with the least possible delay.

3. You will place yourself under the orders of Lieutenant-Colonel Marshall, and afford him every assistance in your power. As you are in the entire confidence of the Major-General and Political Agent, you will request Lieutenant-Colonel Marshall to communicate the contents of the dispatch, and to consult with you on the plan of operations, and to attend to such suggestions as your knowledge of the General's sentiments may enable you to make.

4. You will be pleased further to request Lieutenant-Colonel Marshall to place the cavalry of his force under your immediate command during the operations. So soon as these operations are ended, you will return to head-quarters with all possible expedition, bearing

with you such reports or dispatches as Lieutenant-Colonel Marshall will have to make.

5. You will have the goodness to show this letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Marshall, as his authority for employing your services in the manner indicated in this letter.

6. Enclosed, I have the honour to forward a letter to all officers under the command of Major-General Brooks, requiring them to afford every aid in the shape of escorts, guards, provisions, &c., &c., that you may apply for, and that may be in their power to afford.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. HOLLAND,

Major, Deputy Quarter-Master General.

To Lieutenant T. Smith,
15th Regiment Bengal Native Infantry.

II.

I hereby certify that Lieutenant Smith, of the 15th Bengal Regiment, was sent out to me with dispatches from General Brooks from Sukkur, to make an immediate attack on Nusseer Khan, the Khan of Khelat,

posted within the hills six miles from my camp. Lieutenant Smith performed this duty in thirty-two hours, a distance of one hundred and fifty miles, although he was fired on and harassed by the Brahooes. His conduct during my attack on Nusseer Khan was most praiseworthy; and I have no hesitation in saying he is fully qualified to fill any appointment that may be given him.

T. MARSHALL,

Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Field Detachment.

Camp Kotree,

2nd December, 1840.

On this occasion, Lieutenant Smith commanded the Irregular Horse to my utmost satisfaction.

I.

FORT WILLIAM.

Secret Department, the 29th March, 1841.

General Orders by the Right Hon. the Governor-General of India, in Council.

The Right Hon. the Governor-General of India in Council, has not at an earlier period published, for general information, the result of a bold and successful attack made on the 1st of December last, on the force of the insurgent Brahooes, near Kotree, in the hills

adjoining Cutchee, by a detachment under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Marshall, in consequence of not having received the ordinary official reports of the action; but in the absence of such reports, his Lordship in Council will no longer refrain from giving publicity to such official accounts as have reached Government of that brilliant affair, and has been pleased to direct the publication of the following documents, being extracts of and copies from Lieutenant-Colonel Marshall's Detachment Orders of the 2nd, and Major-General Brooks's Field Army Orders of the 6th December, 1840. In publishing these Orders, his Lordship in Council is happy to express his high approbation of the spirit and gallantry of the troops employed in this successful attack.

By order, &c.,

T. H. MADDOCK,

Secretary to the Government of India.

Camp Kotree, 2nd December, 1840.

Field Detachment Orders by Lieutenant-Colonel Marshall.

It is with feelings of the highest gratification that the Lieutenant-Colonel commanding this small force, expresses his admiration of the truly steady, brave, and soldier-like conduct of the troops under his command,

in the attack yesterday morning on the camp of Nusseer Khan. Nothing could have been better executed. To Captain Teasdale, commanding a detail of five hundred men, composed of the 2nd Grenadiers and 25th N.I., his most grateful thanks are due; the difficulty of the pass he had to force before getting into position in the rear of the enemy's camp, reflects the highest credit on all hands, and it is only to be regretted that the nature of the ground, and the guide losing the way in the dark, prevented this brave body of men from arriving at their post earlier, as the chances are, that, in that case, the object of the General commanding us might have been effected. To Captain Boyd and his little band the Lieutenant-Colonel returns his warmest thanks, and requests he will explain to his detachment the highest opinion he has of their bravery.

The Lieutenant-Colonel has not words to express his sense of the service rendered to him by Captain Ennis, in taking two hundred men through the most difficult ground he ever saw, which was praiseworthy in the extreme, and by this movement the enemy were outflanked, and turned into the mouths of our guns, and of a brave body of the 2nd Grenadiers, by which means a number were slain, and one hundred and thirty-two made prisoners.

Captain Rebenack is assured by the Lieutenant-Colonel that he highly appreciated the steady and

soldier-like way in which he led on the Light Company. To Captain Jackson also his thanks are due for his steady conduct. In fact, the Lieutenant-Colonel must conclude by expressing his warmest thanks to all arms employed, and requests this Order may be explained to the different detachments as early as possible. To Lieutenant Pruen, the Lieutenant-Colonel has to return his warmest thanks for the practice he made with his guns; nothing could have been better done, and he trusts he may long have that active officer under his command.

The Lieutenant-Colonel has now to return his warmest thanks to Captain Smith, A.D.C. to the General commanding, for his truly useful services with the Irregular Horse. To Captain Wallace, the Lieutenant-Colonel begs to return his thanks for his activity in gaining information of the enemy when we were in position.

The Lieutenant-Colonel now concludes with saying that he never wishes to lead braver men into the field, for braver cannot be found.

The strength and nature of the enemy's position must have been plain to all who observed it.

It is now his painful duty to express his deep regret at he loss the has sustained in the death of Lieutenant Lodge; a braver, steadier, or better regimental staff-officer there never was; and the Lieutenant-Colonel is

convinced his memory will be lasting with his brother officers and men.

The brave fellows killed have met a soldier's death—one of glory; the wounded, the Lieutenant-Colonel, on visiting the hospital this morning, was happy to find in good spirits, although some of them were severely wounded.

The Lieutenant-Colonel returns thanks to Doctors Jephson and Knight for their kindness to the wounded.

(Signed)

T. MARSHALL,

Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Field Detachment.

(COPY.)

Field Army Orders, by Major-General Brooks, Commanding the Forces in Scinde.

Camp Sukkur, 6th December, 1840.

Major-General Brooks has much satisfaction in notifying to the troops composing the field army, the signal success which has attended that portion of it stationed at Kotree, under Lieutenant-Colonel Marshall.

The Major-General having received authentic intelligence that Nusseer Khan, with the garrison of Khelat, about four thousand men, had been encamped in a strong position in the hills, within eight miles of Kotree,

and that reinforcements to the extent of many thousands were on the road from Thull to join him, directed Lieutenant Smith, 15th Regiment Bengal N.I., and Acting A.D.C. to the Major-General, to proceed express to Lieutenant-Colonel Marshall's camp, with orders for the Lieutenant-Colonel to attack the Khan in his position. Lieutenant Smith left this at two o'clock on the 28th ultimo, and although his progress was greatly impeded by falling in with a large body of the enemy's cavalry, who followed and fired on him for several miles, he succeeded in reaching Lieutenant-Colonel Marshall's camp on the morning of the 30th, completing a march of one hundred and fifty miles in thirty-eight hours. The attack was made the following morning at daylight, by Lieutenant-Colonel Marshall, at the head of nine hundred infantry of the 2nd Grenadiers, 21st and 25th Regiments, commanded by Captains Boyd, Ennis, and Teasdale, with sixty Irregular Horse, under Lieutenant Smith, and two guns, under Lieutenant Pruen.

The enemy were completely surprised—Nusseer Khan, with two followers, escaped on foot at the first alarm, but his chiefs and followers made a long and desperate defence; nor was it until four of the principal chiefs, and upwards of five hundred men, were left dead on the field, and nearly the whole of the rest put to flight, hat the enemy's chief commander, Meer Bohur, with

his son, six other chiefs, and one hundred and thirty-two of their bravest followers, surrendered themselves prisoners. The whole of the enemy's baggage, and a large quantity of arms, fell into our hands.

The loss on our side, considering the obstinate nature of the conflict, was wonderfully small:—Lieutenant Lodge, 25th Regiment, one Havildar, and nine rank and file, killed; two Havildars, and twenty-eight rank and file wounded.

The Major-General returns his best thanks to and sincerely congratulates Lieutenant-Colonel Marshall, the European and native officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates on this brilliant achievement.

The service of Captain Boyd, 2nd Grenadiers, Captain Ennis, 21st Regiment, Captain Teasdale, of the 25th Regiment, and Lieutenant Pruen, of the Artillery, deserve particular praise, and will be brought to the notice of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. The services of Lieutenant Smith deserve the Major-General's warmest praise, not only for his gallantry in the field, which was conspicuous, but for the determined perseverance and courage which he displayed, in pressing on, despite of fatigue and the danger which surrounded him, in a country occupied by the enemy, so as to deliver his dispatches to Colonel Marshall in time to insure the instructions they contained being carried into effect, before the arrival of the reinforcements expected by

the enemy, which would have rendered the attempt impracticable.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) T. DONNELLY,

Captain Assistant Adjutant-General, Scinde.

(True Copies.)

T. H. MADDOCK,

Secretary to the Government of India.

IV.

(No. 1 of 1841.)

Head Quarters, Scinde Force,
Camp Sukkur, 1st January, 1841

Sir,

In reporting the departure of Lieutenant Smith, 15th Regiment Bengal N.I., to join his regiment, pursuant to instructions, I do myself the honour of requesting, as a particular favour, that you will bring to the notice of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India, that Lieutenant Smith's conduct during the late active operations against the Brahooees has obtained for him the admiration of every individual of the Scinde Force.

A braver young soldier, and a more active zealous officer, I never met with; and I deeply regret that cir-

cumstances have rendered it expedient I should be deprived of his services.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
(Signed) G. B. BROOKS,
Major-General, Commanding Scinde Force.

To Major-General Lumley,
Adjutant-General of the Army.
Bengal.

(True Copy.)
T. DONNELLY,
Captain Assistant Adjutant-General, Scinde Force.

V.

To Lieutenant T. Smith, 15th Bengal N.I.

Sir,

I have the honour to acquaint you, that the appointment to which you were recently nominated as a temporary arrangement, has not been sanctioned by the Government of India.

In requesting you to make an early arrangement for rejoining your corps, I beg leave to return my best

thanks to you for the excellent manner in which the services entrusted to you have been performed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

ROSS BELL,

Political Agent, U. S.

Political Agency, Sukkur,
1st January, 1841.

VI.

Extract of Military Letter, from the Honourable the Court of Directors, to the Governor of Bengal, No. 44, *dated 6th July,* 1842.

Letter, dated 28th December, 1841. No. 164.

46. In consideration of the peculiar circumstances in which Lieutenant Thomas Smith was placed, and of the gallantry and zeal displayed by him on the field, we are disposed to authorise the grant to him of those staff, and other allowances to which he would have been entitled by the regulations of the service, if the appointment as extra aide-de-camp conferred upon him by Major-General Brooks, in General Orders, dated Mhow, 11th September, 1840—and in virtue of which, he

proceeded to Scinde, had been confirmed by your government.

True Extract.

(Signed)

Official Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. R. LUMLEY,

Major-General, Adjutant-General of the Army.

The rules of the service did not permit of my continuing aide-de-camp to General Brooks. I therefore rejoined my regiment, and no opportunity presented itself to Government of giving me any appointment, as a sort of compensation for my "ride," until 1841, when I was appointed Assistant to the Resident, and to command the escort of the British Resident at Nepaul. The latter duty was an exceedingly easy one; though it sometimes called into action all the firmness and energy I could muster, and as it was accompanied by the tenure of the assistantship to the Resident,

I did not consider that I had been altogether unrewarded.

It was during the leisure which I enjoyed at Khatmandoo that the previous occurrences narrated in the following pages transpired, and the idea suggested itself of collecting material for an account of the kingdom and people.

That the chapters devoted to history, zoology, statistics, &c., may not be interrupted by egotism, I may here be pardoned for inserting certain testimonials to the manner in which I performed my duties at the Nepaul Residency.

(No. 16 OF 1842.)

FROM THE RESIDENT, NEPAUL.

To T. H. Maddock, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, with the Governor-General.

Nepaul Residency, June 11th, 1842.

Sir,

I have the honour to report to you that pursuant to the intention already announced to you, my Assistant, Lieutenant Smith, set off yesterday afternoon, by Dak,

for the Right Honourable the Governor-General's Camp, after having had, on the previous evening, in my company, a courteous audience of leave from the Muha Rajah and his Son.

2. On his way through the city again yesterday, the Muha Rajah threw himself into Captain Smith's path, for the purpose of saying that the recent exorbitancies had been the doing of the unruly heir apparent; that his Highness would take care to prevent them in future; and that he would satisfactorily adjust with the Resident the pending matters of dispute.

3. It appears, therefore, that however gross the Rajah's hypocrisy, the restraining effect of this measure, which was announced to the Rajah merely as the result of a summons to myself that I could not from ill health obey, has been rightly calculated, and is already in operation. That the operation may continue, and be attended with some material degree of efficacy, is all we have at present to desire.

4. Captain Smith's prompt offer of his services on this occasion, the moment he thought they might be useful, is in entire harmony with prior similar acts of devotion, and deserves the highest commendation. With what intelligent industry he has shown since his arrival here, to make himself master of the state of affairs, the Right Honourable the Governor-General will soon have opportunity to judge, and on this point

I will not presume to anticipate the approbation of his Lordship.

To Captain Smith's care I have committed some principal dispatches of the past three years, duly arranged, and which Captain Smith is prepared to give either a written or verbal summary of, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor-General.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
(Signed) B. H. HODGSON,
Resident.

VII.

(No. 132 OF 1843.)

From Major Lawrence, Resident, to T. Currie, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India.

Nepaul, 27th December, 1843.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose what appears to me to be a very complete return of the Nepaul Military Establishment; and trust that the Right Honourable the Governor-General will approve of the spirit that has induced Captain Smith to make the inquiries requisite

for its preparation, which I understand he has done, at some expense and much labour.

* * * * *

¶ 3. My short observation of the Goorkha Force, at the capital, leads me to judge that Captain Smith's notes on the army are in the main correct, and I have also reason to believe that the numbers of men, and quantities of stores entered on his return, are not far from the truth.

* * * * *

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) H. M. LAWRENCE,

Resident.

(True Copy and Extract.)

J. R. COLVIN,

Resident.

CHAPTER II.

TOPOGRAPHY OF NEPAUL.

THE kingdom of Nepaul has now, for some years past, occupied so distinct and defined a position in our best maps of India, that, did not custom sanction a particular topographical account of every place to which it has become expedient to devote a volume, the appropriation of a few pages to a description of the situation and boundaries of the kingdom would be supererogatory. It is manifestly the duty of every writer, to render his details clear to the meanest

perception, and there is certainly no better way of reaching completeness than by the assumption that every reader is totally ignorant of the matter treated, yet avid for information and entirely dependant on the author's accuracy and conscientiousness.

The kingdom, or state of Nepaul, is a tract of country about seven hundred and fifty miles in length, and one hundred and seventy in breadth, situated between 26° 31′ and 30° N. latitude. It is bounded on the north by a part of Thibet, from which it is separated by the Himalaya chain;* on the east, by Bootan and

* The boundary line to the north is not in our maps properly laid down. It appears by a recent communication from a Nepaul officer, who accompanied the mission to England in the year 1850, that the line should leave the boundary as laid down by us at Gossingtan, from which place, westward, both slopes of the main chain of the Himalayas belong to Nepaul. The boundary then runs along a ridge to the north of the Himalaya, including Mustang, a place about thirty miles from the foot of Dhawalagiri, and much resorted to by pilgrims. From Mustang the

the little Rajahship, or state of Sikkim, from which it is separated by the river Teesta; on the south, by the British-Indian province of Tirhoot, from which it is divided by the Terai, an immense forest, the eastern part of which is called the Moray district; and on the west, by the kingdom of Oude. The divisions of Nepaul are Jumla, Goorkha, Nepaul, Muckwanpore, and Morung. The principal rivers which traverse the territory are the Kalee and Surgoo,

frontier continues west, including the valley of Humla, with the head waters of the river Gogra. From this it appears that the distance from the Nepaul and Thibet frontier, to the Bramaputra or Dsanpo river, is about fourteen miles. The two largest villages to the north, which carry on a great trade in salt with Thibet, are called Thak and Mooktinalt. It should be borne in mind that this boundary is claimed for Nepaul by a Nepaulese, whose assertions there have been no means of disputing. It is not impossible that he may have defined the boundary accurately, but as the extension of their territory has always been a favourite purpose with the Nepaulese, their own definitions must always be received with caution, if not with suspicion.

which, meeting at a place called Bramadee, form the Goggra and Gunduck. The Gunduck is supposed to rise in the Himalayas, and flows into the Ganges near Patna. The upper part of the river is called Salgramee, from the stones called Salgrams which are found in it, and which the Hindoos hold in veneration.

The geographical position of the British territory, relating to Nepaul, is now as follows:

To the extreme west of Nepaul, lies Almorah, a hill-station, wrested from the Nepaulese in the war of 1815—16; to the extreme east is Darjeling, another hill-station, used by the Supreme Government of India as a sanatarium for invalids. The principal British cities and military stations which border on the Nepaul territory along the line of the Ganges, are, Berhampore (contiguous to the Morung district), Monghyr, Patna, Dinapore, Ghazeepore, Benares, Allahabad, Cawnpore, Lucknow, Futteghur, and Bareilly; the last named town lying opposite to a Nepaulese fort called Doti, and a few miles from the hill-station of Almorah.

The Terai, or Turry, or Turyanee, is a long strip or belt of low level-land. The word, probably, signifies low or marshy lands, but it is sometimes applied to the flats lying below the hills in the interior of Nepaul, as well as to the level tract bordering immediately on the British frontier. It abounds with large and lofty forest-trees, the chief of which are the Saul and the Bechiacori pine. Some of the Saul spars reach the length of seventy to eighty feet, and are generally considered unequalled for strength and durability. In this respect, however, they must yield to the teak, for there is this peculiarity in Saul, that it is seen to warp soon after having been employed, in bulk for many years, rising into large fissures longitudinally, and falling a prey to the white ants. Small quantities of gold-dust are found in the Gunduck, which runs through the Terai, and Lignea Cassia is likewise produced in the jungle. The latter, under the name of Sing Rowla, is much used in Hindostan in spicery: the bark of the root does not differ widely from cinnamon, for which

it has often been mistaken, but the bark of the trunk and branches possess little of the cinnamon flavour.

Beyond the Terai, and still bearing its name, is a range of hills of about the same width, at the northern base of which commences the valley of Nepaul. This valley, which is nearly oval in shape, is about twelve miles from north to south, and nine miles from east to west. Its circuit has been roughly estimated by the inhabitants at twenty-five coss, or from forty to fifty miles. The range of mountains to the north of the valley is stupendous; the ranges to the east and west are much less lofty, the immediate head of the valley to the westward being defined principally by a low, steep ridge covered with brushwood.

At the foot of the northern range, situated upon the eastern bank of a small river called the Bishenmuttee, in latitude 27° 42′ N.; longitude 85° E., stands the city of Khatmandoo, the capital of Nepaul. It is not the largest of the towns in the valley, but enjoys the eminence

of a metropolis, because it is the residence of the Rajah, or king, of Nepaul. In length, Khatmandoo may measure about a mile; its breadth is inconsiderable, nowhere exceeding half and seldom extending beyond a quarter of a mile. The name, says Colonel Kirkpatrick, by which the town is distinguished in ancient books, is Gorgoolputten: the Newars call it Yindaisé, whilst among the Parbuttias, or mountaineers, it is styled Kultipoor, an appellation which seems to proceed from the same source with Khatmandoo, and derived, it is believed, from its numerous wooden temples, which are among the most striking objects in the city. These edifices are not confined to the body of the town, but are scattered over its environs, particularly along the sides of a quadrangular tank, or reservoir of water. The houses are of brick and tile, with pitched or painted roofs. On the street-side they have frequently enclosed wooden balconies of open carved-work, and of a singular fashion; the front piece, instead of rising perpendicularly, projecting in a sloping

direction towards the eaves of the roof. They are of two, three, and four stories, and almost without a single exception are of a mean and poor appearance. The streets are exceedingly narrow, and very filthy.

The city of Patun is of the next importance. It occupies a rising spot of ground, situated about two miles S. by E. of Khatmandoo, and close to the confluence of the Munnohra, Tookcha, and Bhagurutty rivers. The figure ascribed to it, is that of the Chucro, or wheel of Narain. Patun is called Yellodaise by the Newars; and it is likewise occasionally distinguished from Deo Patun, by the appellations of Lallit-Patun and Lall-Patun. It is a neater town than Khatmandoo.

Bhatgong is perhaps still more superior to Khatmandoo, for though the least considerable of the three towns in point of size, yet its buildings in general have a more striking appearance; and its streets, if not much wider, are at all events much cleaner than those of the metropolis, a distinction which it owes to its admirable brick

pavement. Bhatgong lies E. by S. of Khatmandoo, at a distance of nearly eight road miles. Its ancient name was Dhurmapatun, and it is called by the Newars, Khopodaire; by whom it is also described to resemble in figure the Dumbroo, or guitar, of Mahadeo. It is the favourite residence of the Brahmins of Nepaul, containing many more families of that order, than Khatmandoo and Patun together.

Kirthipoor occupies the summit of a low hill, about three miles west of Patun. It was at one time the seat of an independent prince; and its reduction cost the Goorkhali prince so much trouble, that in resentment of the resistance made by the inhabitants, he barbarously caused all the males, whom he captured in it, to be deprived of their noses. Chobar is also situated on an eminence, which with that of Kirthipoor, forms a kind of saddle hill.

Nepaul contains, from its locality, every variety of climate. The fourth of it lies in the hot plains of the Ganges, and the remaining

three parts lie on the slope of the Indian Andes, from the elevation of five thousand feet up to the limit of perpetual snow. It is alleged to contain from forty-three thousand to fifty thousand square miles, and to have two million inhabitants. It may be called the Switzerland of India; but its area is equal to that of three Switzerlands, while the amount of its population is no more than one third part as great.

The superior part of the soil consists of an indistinct mixture of light mould, sand and gravel, supported by a deep black unctuous earth, which the cultivators spread over their rice-fields in the manner of manure. The lands of Nepaul, under which denomination are comprehended, not only those of Nepaul proper and of Goorkha, but of such conquered districts as have been thoroughly settled, may be arranged into Crown lands, the Birtha or Brehmoter lands, the Kohrya and Bari lands, and the Kaith lands. The Crown lands, or the Rajah's immediate estates, are situated chiefly in the Goorkha territory; some of them are

cultivated by husbandmen, with whom the Prince divides their produce; others are managed immediately by his agents, and tilled by the neighbouring husbandmen, and others are farmed out.

The Birtha or Brehmoter lands are two kinds, viz., the Kaos-Birtha, and the Soona-Birtha. The former are rarely bestowed excepting on Brahmins; and the latter tenure is that by which certain Newars, and other natives of different countries, subjected by the Goorkhalis, continue to hold their ancient possessions under the government of their conquerors. Those lands, although rent free, saleable and habitable, like the first named, are not enjoyed on terms equally easy, as they must be renewed on similar terms under every succeeding prince. The Kohrya and Bari lands are destitute of springs, and have no streams passing through them. A Bari is properly an enclosed fruit or kitchen garden, unsupported with spring or running water. Kohyra land is often comprehended in Jagheers, but it is not productive

to the Jagheerdar, as it requires considerable labour, and yields after all no very profitable grains. The Kaith or plantation lands are of the first quality, being well watered by springs and rivulets. They have a rich soil, and yield, with moderate labour, all the superior kinds of grain. They are principally situated in the valleys, the lowest of which are, generally speaking, the most fertile; but they are not uncommon even in the higher lands, some of which are abundantly supplied with water.

The principal rivers which traverse the Nepaul territory, are the Bhagmutty, Bukkia, Jumni, Billye or Billaric, Sukkati or Sukti, Kurroo, Rapti, Boori, Gunduck, Zillaive, Baharanuddee, Dohar, Gadh or Gadhi, Sunghirja, Nagrote, Becheacori, and some smaller streams. Those in and about the valley of Nepaul, are the Bishenmuttee, Dhobeckola, Munohia, Hummunta, and the Kushni Kushen.

CHAPTER III.

CLIMATE AND PRODUCTION OF NEPAUL.

THE height of Nepaul above the level of the sea is about four thousand feet. The thermometer, notwithstanding this height, ranges to 87 degrees. Its usual height, about noon, varies from 81° to 84°. A little after sunrise, it stands between 50° and 54°, but it is occasionally as low as 47°. At nine in the morning, it fluctuates from 62° to 66°. The mean temperature in March is 67°.

The seasons of Nepaul are pretty nearly the same as those of Upper Hindostan. The rains ommence a little earlier, say in the month

of May, and set in from the S.E. quarter; they are usually very abundant, and break up towards the middle of October.

In describing the climate of Nepaul, we ought not to confine ourselves to the valley, since by a journey of three or four days one may actually exchange a heat equal to that of Bengal for the cold of Russia, by barely moving from Nyakote to Khuroo, or over to Rancha. Few would seek a finer climate in winter than that of Chittlong, or in summer, a more elastic and sharper air than is to be breathed on the tops of the summit of Chandragheery. Not only are the tops of the surrounding mountains sprinkled with snow for several days together during the winter, but it even sometimes falls in the valley below. A hoar frost too, at this season very commonly covers the ground; but though the cold is occasionally for three or four months severe enough to congeal the tanks and pools of standing water, yet the rivers are never frozen. With respect to the salubrity of the non-elevated vallies and situations, it would

seem to be abundantly proclaimed in the general looks of the inhabitants, among whom, if the Newar peasantry take the lead in point of robustness, it is to be attributed to their laborious, but invigorating occupation.

The exceeding jealousy with which, in imitation of their Chinese neighbours, the Nepaulese have regarded the visits of intelligent and enquiring Europeans to the interior of the country has made it difficult to obtain accurate information respecting the wealth of the vegetable and mineral kingdoms; and but for the advantages enjoyed by Mr. B. Hodgson, when British resident at Khatmandoo, in indulging his passion for Natural History, we might have remained in ignorance of the extent of the animal kingdom. Father Giuseppe, who published an account of Nepaul, in the Asiatic Researches, is nearly silent on this topic, and Colonel Kirkpatrick's investigations, during his journey to the capital, are somewhat limited. From such sources, however, as are available to us we gather the following facts.

In a previous page, mention has been made of the enormous fruit trees which are to be found in the Terai. In addition to the Saul, and the Bechiaconri pine, are to be found the Sissoo, the Setti-saul, the Phullamikal, (an iron wood) the Kalikset, (a sort of black wood), the Sajk, the Burra, the Sunni, and the Moolta. Besides this, there is a small quantity of ebony. These woods constitute in a great measure the commercial wealth of Nepaul. Wood merchants congregate at the southernmost point of the forest near the river Gunduck because of the facility presented by that river of floating the timber to Calcutta. Some of the woods, the Dubdubea, for example, a sort of ash, abounding in the Terai which is a powerful astringent, and constitutes an article of trade. The Bechiacori, called in Nepaul, Sulla and Surrendhool, or Dhoobkee (on account of its resinous quality) is chiefly consumed at home. Its branches are used as torches: the fragrant turpentine which it yields is employed in sacrifices, and in medicated salves, and its wood is converted into

rafts for houses. A great quantity of grass, brush and underwood intersect the trees of the Terai, and among the wild plants and fruits are to be found the nettle, wormwood, raspberries and mulberries. Here is likewise a curious shrub called the Khaksi, the leaf of which answers the purpose of emery or sand paper, giving a fine polish to the harder woods.

Leaving the level forest, and ascending the chain of hills which skirt the southern part of the valley of Nepaul, we find the highlands covered with wood of various kinds. There is the Phullaced, the Kâhôlô, the Sing Rowla, the Timmûe, the Chellownea, and the Seidburrooa. The first of these is a kind of oak, the wood of which is in high repute for its strength and durability; the acorns are used medicinally, and also serves as food for the pigs. Of the pith of the Kâhôlô, the poorer classes of the people, in time of scarcity, prepare a nutritious bread, which is sometimes mixed with flour. Of the Sing Rowla (the Lignea Cassia) mention has already been made. The Timmûe,

called also Taizbul (of which there are two species), is a curious plant, yielding a berry resembling black pepper in shape and size. The berry consists of a black or bicolor seed, contained in a thin shell or pod, which spontaneously opens when the fruit is ripe. The shell is a strong, pleasant spice, used for various culinary purposes, and likewise possesses great medicinal virtues. The Chillounea is also a singular tree. Its upper coat is entirely composed of innumerable needle-form fibres tolerably united by a kind of gelatinous sap. The wood makes good beams and rafters, and is held in such superstitious veneration by the natives, that no house is considered secure in which more or less of the timber has not been employed. The bark of the Seidburrooa is manufactured into a strong useful paper; it is also made into rope and black thread, but neither of them resist moisture well. Besides these trees, there are the Jumnomundroo, the Gûrras, the Puddiem or Payah, the Chootraphul, the Mahul and the Puhuttoli. The first of these bears yellow, sweet-smelling flowers

in branches; its leaves resemble those of the holly, and the wood is, both in closeness of texture and colour, very like box. The Gûrras is a tree that affects the highest situations; its flowers are large and of a deep red; and yield by decoction a purplish colour, which are converted by acids into a tolerable pink. The Puddiem or Payah resembles, in its leaf and wood, the English cherry, the latter (the wood) being held in sanctity by the natives. The Chootraphul is not unlike the barberry in appearance; the wood is of a strong yellow colour, but does not afford a permanent dye; the women of Nepaul use it instead of sandal for tracing the tillah on their forehead. The Mahail and Dhuttola are both species of plums; the former bears abundance of beautiful flowers. The Ukroat or walnut, of Chittong is reckoned the best of any produced in the Nepaul territories; but those of Tibet are esteemed superior. The shell of the Chittong, and indeed of most of the Nepaul walnuts, is remarkably hard. The wood is employed in the manufacture of gun stocks. The best

charcoal is made of the Bhâng or holly leafed oak.

Upon the summit of the lofty hills, north of Khatmandoo are the Champah, a tree which measures in girth eleven feet at least, and the Shujh, or milk tree which grows to an enormous size.

The grains produced in the low lands of Nepaul, are Indian corn, rice, wheat, barley, millet and pulses of other kinds. The sugar cane is cultivated a good deal, and is profitable; but as its culture is expensive, the landowners raise no more than is necessary for their own consumption. Cotton grows in some places and garlic is abundant. Of the fruits, the chief are the pine-apple, the guava and the orange. The oranges of the valley of Nyakote are justly esteemed. They are propagated from the seed which is sown in earthen vessels filled with a black loom, some time in the month of Assar (July), if not exposed to the weather they are watered twice a day, and in Kartic (November) are transplanted, a proper distance being preserved between the young shoots: the

remain in the highest perfection for three months, preserving much of their excellence for six. Some gardens produce them throughout the whole year, but in that case the trees are obliged to be secured against the inclemencies of the weather. Of the vegetables of the country the principal are cabbages, peas, turnips potatoes, yams, and wild asparagus.

The most remarkable drug to be found in Nepaul is the Cherrus, the offspring of the plant Jeea. It is chiefly raised to the north west of the kingdom. The plant differs in no respect from the hemp, excepting in the odour of its leaves, which is of a most overpowering strength. The Cherrus is extracted from the shrub when the plant is in flower and its seeds on the point of maturity, it being material to the purity of the extract, that the leaf should not be parched or dry. The manipulations of the plant consist in rubbing the leaves gently between the hands until these become sufficiently charged with the juice, which adheres to the palms in the form of a dark, viscid, and tolerably consistent substance; this being removed with a spatula or knife, is made up into balls or lumps, which, third year they bear fruit, and when at maturity

while unrefined, are sold under the name of cherrus. The clarrified cherrus is called mômea (from its resemblance to wax), and burns with the brightness of a resinous flame. Its gum is a most potent narcotic, possessing very valuable medical qualities. The grosser products of the plant are called Gunja and Bharq or Subje, the former being a preparation of flowers and the latter of the leaves. From the hemp, the Newars of Nepaul fabricate some coarse linen and also a very strong kind of sackcloth. Spikenard (juttemasi) and gentian are to be added to the drugs of Nepaul.

The mountainous parts of Nepaul are rich in mines of iron and copper. The produce of the former is smelted in other hills than those where the ore is found. The copper is of a very superior kind, and before the opening of a trade between England and India was preferred for consumption in the territories of the King of Oude to that exported from this country. Its supercession by the European produce, doubtless arose from the difficulty and expense of

transportation through a mountainous tract, having no navigable rivers, and the ignorance of the Nepaulese in the arts of mineralogy and metallurgy. Lead mines, yielding also a proportion of silver, are to be found in Moulkote, and it is supposed that there are gold mines to the north, though as yet no traces of gold have been discovered excepting in the beds of the torrent which rush through Kachar to the eastward. The recent discoveries of extensive mines in Australia and California may, perhaps, lead to a geological comparison in view to the determination of the extent of the mineral wealth of Nepaul; but as this is a matter of less interest to ourselves than to the Nepaulese, it is unnecessary to go into speculation as to the probable results of research. The western parts of Nepaul abound in arsenic and pyrites, marble, jasper, chrystal, limestone, slate, &c., and the beds of the streams which spring from the south face of Koomhara mountain are strewed with huge blocks of talc of two or three kinds, the most esteemed of which is the Koushnocbruik or black talc.

CHAPTER IV.

THE ANIMALS OF NEPAUL; WITH SOME NARRATIVES OF SPORT IN THE FOREST.

THE animal kingdom of Nepaul seems to comprehend all the classes, quadrupedal and bipedal, to be found in the plains and mountains of Hindostan, only qualified by climate and situation. The low and level lands abound with elephants, tigers, rhinoceroses, &c.; the hilly portions, with bears, deer, of every variety, and a great many of the finest members of the feathered creation.

The domestic cattle of Nepaul, generally speaking, do not seem much superior to those ordinarily indigenous to Bengal and the Upper Provinces; but it is otherwise with regard to the native horses. It is true that they are but little distinguished in respect to size; yet they appear very strong and plump, and exhibit a greater variety, in point of colour, than is usually seen in the lower parts of India.*

The cows, though very good-looking, would differ considerably in comparison with our English cattle. Their milk, however, is not surpassed for sweetness or richness by any in the world. Besides the above, are the kustoora, or musk-deer, a native of Cachar, or Lower Thibet, commonly met with in Nepaul; the chowry (known in Hindostan by the name of soori-ghae); the chaugra, or shawl-goat; sheep of all kinds; and a peculiar dog. This dog, which is known in Bengal by the name of the

* Perhaps the most extraordinary is a pony called the hubshee, from the strong resemblance of its coat to a curly-headed negro.

Nepaul dog, is, properly speaking, a native of the Upper and Lower Thibets, whence it is usually brought to Nepaul. It is a fierce and surly creature, about the size of an English Newfoundland, and covered with thick long hair. It is reckoned to be a good watch-dog, and never to sleep at night. The tanguns, or tanyans, so much esteemed in India for their hardiness, come entirely from Upper Thibet; and, notwithstanding their make, are so sure-footed that the people of Nepaul ride them without fear over very deep mountains and along the brink of the deepest precipice.

Of the birds, the principal are the chuckore, moonal, and damphia, the last two belong to the pheasant tribe; and the chuckore is well known by the name of the fire-eater. It is a species of partridge, bigger than the red-grouse, and derives its name from its fondness for red pepper and its reputed power of swallowing fire. The calidge, cyrus, ortolan, wild-goose, wild-duck, and several other species of the feathered tribe, common to Bengal and the

rest of the countries lying to the southward of Nepaul, are occasionally seen in this and the adjacent vallies, where, however, they appear merely as birds of passage, making only a stage of Nepaul in their flight from Hindostan to Thibet. They begin to migrate from their native plains towards the middle of April, whither they return from the elevated regions in the vicinity of the Himalayas become too inclement for their abode.

With regard to fish, Nepaul is as bad an angling as a bird country, for though some of the rivers may almost be said to be animated, yet they are at the same time so transparent and so rapid, that the fish with which they swarm can by no means be brought to bite. The Rapti abounds with fish of all kinds.

In many parts of the forests animals abound, particularly the elephant, and as the death of one of these magnificent animals will form the principal subject of the present chapter, I will here offer a few remarks upon their nature, and the course pursued by the Nepaulese

in obtaining possession of them, which differs greatly from the means employed for similar purposes by the British government in the Chittagong districts, where the elephants are taken by pitfalls and khedahs. The former method is objectionable, because of the enormous bulk of the animals. When falling into the trap, about seven out of ten of them are generally severely injured, and are thus rendered useless to the government. The khedah or enclosure ensures only the taking of small or half-grown male elephants. Remarkably fine and full-grown females are frequently captured in this manner. In the Chittagong district are to be found by far the finest and the largest elephants caught in India, but the difficulty of acclimatising them to Upper India is so great that seldom more than four out of ten, when sent to the upper-provinces, are preserved; change of food, and what all natives declare to be a greater evil still, change of "pawnee" (water), are supposed to be the main causes of premature mortality. The natives of India are

firm believers in water, and every kind of sickness or ailment is invariably laid to the charge of that element. Being great consumers of that beverage, they certainly ought, generally speaking, to be good judges. Be this as it may, the Chittagong elephants are decided water-drinkers, and so are those in the upper country; we may therefore infer that the Chittagong water must be the better suited for these animals. It is, however, injuriously operative to humanity, as witness the frightful enlargement of human legs in that district, arising from elephantiasis, a disease which causes a moderate-sized person's leg to become increased to the dimensions of a muscular Yorkshireman's thigh, his wretched toes appearing like a fringe to his bloated limb. The catching and taming of wild elephants furnish a large source of revenue to the Nepaul government. The mode of taking them is this: The Taroos, or elephant-catchers, having marked down a wild herd of three hundred or four hundred elephants, the following preparations are made. About two

hundred Taroos collect together, mounted upon elephants, and accompanied by two large "taking elephants," highly fed, and thereby kept always musth (sensual). The herd of wild elephants having been started, they get away trumpeting and whistling into the thickest part of the forest, hotly pursued by the mounted Taroos, each of whom is provided with three or more nooses, called the moosack, which is made of very strong raw hide, well soaked in oil, and so ingeniously contrived, that when once attached to the elephant, the hind legs are gradually drawn together at every step he takes, until he is brought to a complete stand-still. The chase continues frequently for twenty miles at full speed, until, in fact, the wild herd becomes blown and is brought to a stand. The danger then commences, from the wild ones dashing at their pursuers, in their turn causing the most intense excitement during half an hour, until the arrival of the two musth elephants, whose bulk prevents their keeping up with the more active ones, ridden by the Taroos.

These two elephants, each having three keepers upon their backs, dash into the herd. Their appearance, accompanied by the powerful nauseous odour emitted by musth elephants, creates an immediate panic among the wild ones, and soon paralyzes their efforts of resistance. The active little Taroos now slide down from their steeds, and under cover of one of the musth elephants, who pushes himself forcibly against the wild one selected from the herd, they, in a most dexterous and daring manner, slip the moosack on to each of the hind legs, which performance occupies about three minutes. The noosed elephant is then allowed to depart, and he goes off evidently delighted; but as the noose becomes contracted at every stride, he finds his intended flight brought to a close, at a distance of sixty or seventy yards. After operating upon about fifty wild elephants in a similar manner, the Taroos permit the remainder of the herd to abscond, and employ themselves in fastening the noosed elephants to separate trees, where they are detained from two to three

weeks under the careful charge of the takers. If any of the captured show symptoms of violence, they are immediately punished most severely by two of the large tame elephants, who belabour them unmercifully with their trunks. Two such thrashings effectually cure the most insubordinate, and at the expiration of six weeks, the once free and independant denizen of the forest has a keeper on his back, and becomes as quiet as if he had been in a state of subjection all his life.

As Chittagong is renowned for the beauty and size of its elephants, so is Nepaul celebrated for the hardiness and ugliness of her produce: a fatal peculiarity extending to the Nepaulese themselves. The full-grown female elephants seldom exceed seven feet and a half in height, but the males of forty years old, at which age they are considered to be full-grown, are fine fellows, averaging from nine to eleven feet. The elephant whose death I am about to describe was eleven feet four inches in stature. His head and tusks were in possession of the

late Earl of Derby, at Knowlsey Park, near Liverpool; and, as his lordship's splendid collection there was open to the public, any one wishing to satisfy himself of the battering required by an Indian elephant before he bites the dust could inspect the specimen to which I refer. I can well remember that he fought me for two hours before I killed him, and I had not made his acquaintance (on foot) ten minutes, before I repented my past folly in confronting him, and would, if he had allowed me, have readily beaten a most ignominious retreat, gladly leaving him even my favourite guns wherewith to amuse himself. During my stay at Nepaul, I had upon various occasions been so fortunate as to kill sundry rhinoceroses, tigers, and bears, with some ease, and during a visit of ceremony to the Durbar (court), when Mr. Brian Hodgson to whose persevering researches in zoology and ornithology reference has already been made, was resident at Nepaul, the Rajah asked me, at an audience, if I thought I should be able to kill a wild elephant. I answered in the

affirmative, when he added: "But I wish you to understand, that the one I allude to is a fearful shitan (devil): he has been musth for many years!" I must here observe, that an elephant when musth is mad, and while in that state is always avoided, and not driven away (as is generally but erroneously supposed) by the rest of the herd. He is thus compelled to become a solitary, but very dangerous hermit. His Highness added, that his elephant-catching had been entirely put a stop to by the animal in question, and that no one dared to go into that part of the forest in which he took up his quarters. I replied, that in elephant shooting I had acquired but little practical experience, having at that time killed but one, an unfortunate wretch, about fifteen years old, who, either from stupidity or fright, would not get out of my way, and that I had brought him down with the third shot. The Rajah then said, that as he had given me permission (which was the first that had been granted to an English officer) to sport in his forests, I ought

to endeavour to render an important service to Nepaul, and that I certainly should do so if I succeeded in destroying this elephant.

I immediately undertook the trial, and promised to do my best; but, upon taking leave, the Rajah said: "I am not quite in earnest about that elephant, and would rather you should not go near him; for two years ago, I sent down a couple of guns, six-pounders, to destroy him, but the party, after firing two shots at, and missing, him, had to run for their lives, leaving the two six-pounders which the elephant amused himself by upsetting." I told his Highness that, as the elephant had already destroyed so many human beings (native reports had stated upwards of one hundred, though I considered the number to have been greatly over-rated), I had made up my mind to encounter this animal. The Rajah hereupon appointed two native chiefs, named Sirdar Bowanee Sing, and Sirdar Delhi Sing, the reputed Nimrods of Nepaul, to accompany me. These two chiefs assured the Rajah on taking leave, that if I should not be

able to destroy the famous "Shikar Bassa Hattee," they would do so: and we shall presently see to what extent these two valiant Sirdars fulfilled their promises. We took our departure the following day, the Sirdars taking with them at least twenty guns each, English and Hindostanee. I had my own usual battery of two double-barrelled rifles, one single rifle, carrying a three ounce ball, and three first-rate double guns. We opened our sporting campaign at Hitounda, the half-way house from Nepaul to the British territory. Many deer, eleven tigers, and seven rhinoceroses, fell to my battery, the two Nepaul chiefs having shown a most religious horror of coming in contact with the last-named formidable animals. The Indian rhinoceros is certainly an ugly customer, evincing a great dislike to being disturbed in his muddy bath. Upon being compelled to move, he at once makes off to another swamp, and, if interfered with on his way, he invariably shows fight, and is not then to be despised; for when he once takes up a position, he will dispute it to

the last with the most determined ferocity, neither giving nor receiving quarter. I was much amused, after killing my fifth rhinoceros by being waited upon by the two chiefs in the afternoon, and after the usual compliments, informed by them that they had received an intimation from the Durbar, that the Court was surprised from their own sporting qualifications, they should allow an Englishman to kill so many rhinoceroses in the Terai, without their having destroyed one; and, that if they were either unwilling to attempt, or incapable of achieving such an enterprise, they were immediately to return, to be replaced by other chiefs, who would be more careful not to disgrace themselves as they had done. My chiefs were evidently in a great state of alarm, so I told them, if they felt inclined to distinguish themselves, I would soon procure them a favourable opportunity. They frankly confessed their incapability of profiting by my offers, but earnestly implored me to save their *hoormut* (honour). To this I acceded, and the next day intelligence

was brought that there were four rhinoceroses within a mile of us. At their own request, I lent each of the chiefs one of my guns, as they had a firm impression that they were endowed with some kind of *jadoo* (witchcraft). We soon arrived at the head-quarters of the *ghindahs*. They were rolling in the mud, in the midst of a heavy swamp; and, finding themselves disturbed in the midst of their luxurious ablutions, they, as usual, got up, and made for another bath. I immediately intercepted them, and provoked two of the party to hostilities, when down they came to the charge. The brute that rushed at me I killed within six yards of the elephant Megreath, on which I was mounted, and which stood to the charge like a rock. I fortunately hit the rhinoceros in the only vital part, just under the foot of the ear, which is not easily accomplished. The other animal selected my friend Sirdar Delhi Sing's elephant, which immediately turned tail and bolted, but the rhinoceros was too quick for him, came up to the elephant in a few strides,

and with his tusks cut the fugitive so severely on the stern—nearly severing his tail—that he attempted to lie down under the pain. But the rhinoceros was again too quick for him, and bringing his horn into play, he introduced it under the elephant's flank; the horn tightened the skin, and then with his two frightful tusks he cut the poor animal so severely, that his entrails came rolling about his legs, as he fell, undergoing the dreadful assaults of his antagonist. The Sirdar now threw himself out of the howdah, and scrambled up a tree (which was close at hand), like a galvanized monkey. The other Sirdar was going across country, at Melton pace, on his elephant. Having disposed of my rhinoceros, I pushed up to the rescue, fearing, indeed, the Sirdar had been killed. On approaching within twenty yards, the rhinoceros relinquished the fallen elephant, and turned to have a charge at me. I brought him on his knees the first shot, but he recovered, and fought me valiantly; and, in consequence of my elephant being a little unsteady, it was not until

the fifth shot that he fell to rise no more. The poor mutilated elephant lived about two hours, and died in endeavouring to rise. I should at once have put it out of its misery, had the mahout not assured me, that if he could be got to the tents he should be able to recover it. From this account, it will be seen that the rhinoceros is armed with much more formidable tusks than the boar. These are the weapons he brings into such deadly operation, and not the horn, as many persons are led to believe.

Upon the day following this last event, whether out of revenge, or from an anxious desire to stand well with their sovereign, the two chiefs courageously proposed that we should go at once to destroy the Shirkar Bassa, or famous wild elephant. They both promised faithfully to support me, vowing to stand by, even to their toe nails (a favourite Indian expression), alledging that their honour was at stake, and without some such finale, they dare not shew their faces at Court again. I much doubted all these protestations, but thinking they might

possibly be seriously anxious to retrieve the disgrace which fell upon them in the rhinoceros affair, I felt disposed to place confidence in them and agreed to their proposal. They then informed me, they had been favoured with a private and confidential communication from their deity, "Goruck," who had signified his gracious intention of supporting us, and would even condescend to protect an unbelieving Feringee upon such an occasion. I thanked them for Goruck's very kind intentions, but inwardly trusted with much greater confidence to a good ounce of lead well planted.

The morning dawned splendidly; we were all in excellent spirits, and the two chiefs, in appearance at least, were as brave as lions. While we were examining our guns and carefully arranging our ammunition, the savage Shikar Bassa elephant was marked down, having been discovered in his usual retreat. In order if possible to render the deity Goruck more wrathful, he had only the day before destroyed a Brahmin for firing a matchlock ball into his

elephant's side; the Brahmin having been provoked to do so, by the elephant destroying and eating up two fields of rice for his own private amusement. I saw the poor priest's mangled remains close to his hut; not a vestige of humanity remained, so frightfully had the brute trampled on and kneaded his body that not a bone escaped uncrushed; legs, arms, and carcass, could only be compared to some disgusting, indescribable mass, well pounded and furnished with a skin covering. This exhibition excited my anger, and I vowed the destruction of the destroyer.

Of the birth and parentage of this famous outlawed wild elephant, for so many years the dread and terror of all the Nepaul elephant catchers, I know little, but if a tenth part of the accusations bestowed by the Nepaulese upon his ancestors be true, he must have been a very low caste fellow, a compound of flatulent fowls and home fed pigs. However, it is certain he was a most powerful well grown beast, beautifully formed, head well set on and erect; and

would have been altogether an invaluable animal, could he have been persuaded to present himself at Court, and conduct himself properly. But he disdained such honours; he chose to remain lord paramount of the forest, and defied all comers to dispute it with him. He was supposed by the best judges to have been fifty years old, though triple that age in iniquity, and having set two generations of Nepaulese at defiance, indulged himself in the recreation of destroying any one who was fool enough to venture within his beat. Upon our arrival at a small deserted village within three miles of the monster's head quarters, our camp having been pitched, I was visited by the two Sirdars, accompanied by several villagers, who furnished me with most terrific accounts of his ferocity, and finding I was not easily alarmed, they evidently became so on my account, and endeavoured by every possible argument to dissuade me from the encounter. I observed that their arguments were useless; after coming so far to see the monster, I should not think of return-

ing until I had made his acquaintance. I then appealed to them as chiefs and sportsmen, inhabitants of a nation notorious for its bravery, whether it would not be considered most disgraceful cowardice to retire now, without even firing a shot? This appeal had the desired effect, and they then agreed, saying, "we can but die once, and if our respective time for doing so has arrived, we had better submit to it with honour." I gave them to understand that I did not at all approve of the dying part of their address, as I had no great personal aversion to life; but on the contrary, I felt confident, that well armed as we were, and supporting one another, we might, and ought to, conquer the monster. They then tried a pathetic allusion to their wives and families, to which I rejoined, that I had no such incumbrances, and should matters come to the worst, a few yards of black crape would be no very heavy tax to a brace of anxious brothers in England. Finding further persuasions of no avail, they requested I would write a few lines

to the Resident, to state that they had said and done all in their power to deter me from my purpose, which I promised. I had in my establishment some old and well-tried Shikarees, (beaters), who had witnessed some startling occurrences during our intercourse with the animal kingdom. One of them, dubbed Jack, was a low caste fellow, but when under the influence of arrack, he was very courageous and a firm believer in the transmigration of souls. I sent for Jack, who appeared as usual well impregnated, though his nervous system was somewhat influenced by the sudden epidemic of alarm, which had already attacked the natives of a higher caste. Jack could sport a little English, and after being duly informed as to what would be required of him, he said, "By gar captine dis dam job; dis elerfant de divil; kill captin sure enuf." Upon my asking him if he was prepared to stand by me, he vowed he would, simply remarking that by that time to-morrow, he should be a grazing bullock, and hoped he should have a good master.

At daylight the next morning, I was up, and found some two hundred Taroos had come in during the night. These men live entirely in the jungles, and speak a most unintelligible patois. Their appearance is of the wildest description, with hardly a vestige of clothing upon their bodies, and their long black hair plaited down to their waist, but when in pursuit of their avocations, they roll it round their heads like a turban, and with a black blanket, and their bodies well greased, their toilet is made. Accustomed to almost daily encounters with wild elephants, the Taroos have little fear, but they all expressed the utmost dread of this Shikar Bassa elephant, declaring their conviction of its being neither possible to take nor destroy him. After a long consultation it was decided that the operations should be commenced by the two famous tame male elephants employed in the taking expeditions. They were the finest animals of the kind I have ever seen, both being ten feet and a half at the shoulder, and in the highest condition. Their respective

names were Arang Bahadoor, and Motee Persaud, the latter with only one tusk, but in other respects a most powerful elephant, and noted for his courage.

These elephants were so highly prized, that I pledged my word to the chiefs, that if either of them should get worsted in the attack, I would go to their rescue, and attack the wild elephant myself; this quieted their fears, at least as far as the animals were concerned.

At eight o'clock in the morning of the 7th of March 1844, we started from the tents, and at the expiration of an hour, we arrived at the place where this monster was to be found. Never shall I forget the scene! Upon our coming within a few yards of his position, Motee Persaud was leading, when out rushed the wild elephant with a terrific whistle, and immediately commenced a furious attack upon Motee. The meeting of these two mountains of flesh was really grand. Motee stood the shock well, but in ten minutes, it was quite evident the wild one was master; they crossed

their tusks, and pushed at each other like infuriated rams. Upon Motee giving way a general shout was raised by some three hundred voices. I immediately got off my elephant, followed by my five gun carriers, and fired a three ounce ball into the wild one's flank; he gave a hideous roar, eased his purchase on Motee Persaud, and retired to his quarters. A general scamper now took place. Away went the chiefs and Taroos (the former had never dismounted) with Motee Persaud at their heels, and after going about two miles at a rattling pace, Motee was secured with some difficulty and fastened to a tree.

I now determined upon attacking the brute on foot, Jack and my other attendants standing by me, though much disappointed that I had not joined in the general flight. The enemy soon showed symptoms of the humour he was in by tearing down branches of the trees, and dashing them in all directions; many of them were thicker than my body. Shortly afterwards about twenty tame buffaloes which

were grazing in the neighbourhood, and probably disturbed by the Taroos' elephants, came galloping across the plain near the monster's position. I saw him issuing from the forest, and in an instant he trampled one of the buffaloes to death, crushing every bone in his body; he then lifted another off the ground with the greatest ease, driving his tusks through and through him, and throwing the carcase to some distance, quite dead. He once more retreated to his cover, and in a few minutes I advanced to the attack: when within a hundred yards of him, out he came with that peculiarly shrill whistle, which must be heard from a wild elephant to be appreciated. He made his appearance with an enormous branch of a tree in his trunk, holding it well up over his head. His rush was splendid, and stopping at about sixty yards from me, he hesitated what to do; whisking the branch about, and kicking up the ground with his fore and hind feet with astonishing force, I certainly did not like his appearance, but it was now too late, so hostilities com-

menced. I first gave him the benefit of my old well-tried double rifle, and discharged the right barrel as true as the branch he was holding to the centre of his forehead would allow me to direct it. The ball stung him sharply; he dropt the branch as if it had been a red hot poker; shook his enormous head, and roared violently. I now had a clear look at him; the hole made in his forehead by the ball annoyed him exceedingly; he turned up his trunk to examine the wound, sucked out the blood, and throwing it over his head and shoulders, appeared to experience considerable astonishment. I was not at all disposed to allow him much time for reflection, for fear he might prove too troublesome, and as he was standing still, I favoured him with the left barrel, this time well planted just into the bump of his trunk, where it rises out of the head. As there was nothing to intercept my sight, this shot brought him upon his knees, in which position he remained just long enough to enable me to reload. On getting up he turned wildly about,

looking for me, and upon discovering my position, came down towards me at an awful pace. Anticipating this movement, I had my three ounce rifle prepared for his reception, and allowed him to come within twenty yards, when I sent the ball again into his forehead, which stopped him short; he began to stagger and roll about as if drunk, turned round three or four times, again felt over his bleeding forehead, sucking out pints of blood with his trunk, and showering it over his head and body which, originally black, had now been changed to a deep scarlet.

The fight up to this time had been carried on in the dry bed of the Raptee river, without a bush between us, but with a dense jungle on either side, so finding him a much thicker-headed and more disagreeable antagonist than I had inwardly bargained for, I considered it prudent to retreat into the jungle on my right, taking up my position behind a large tree. Not many minutes had elapsed ere he missed me, and rushing down to the spot where he had

last seen me, he began to hunt me out. Elephants possess a very keen sense of smell through the proboscis, but the blood was now streaming through the interior of that organ, which sadly perplexed his endeavours to sniff me out. By hard blowing he partially cleared the trunk, and discovering a clue to his opponent, came straight to the tree behind which I was concealed. I had no time to lose, I therefore treated him to a salute from the right and left barrels in rapid succession; the last shot, from his shaking his head at the first, glanced off the bone and scooped out his right eye, the pain of which drove him nearly mad. He spun himself round in intense agony; his roars were appalling, and he ploughed up the ground with his feet to an extent that, if described, would appear an exaggeration to those who have not seen an elephant, particularly an enraged one, in the act of performing that operation. His small eye hung from the socket, I therefore determined to manœuvre on his blind side, and ply him well with lead.

I had fought him for an hour and a half. Now, a scorching sun and a fast, under such circumstances, are *rather* trying; indeed, I had almost had enough of it, and began devoutly to wish that the beast would either take to his heels, or allow me to take to mine. The brute, unfortunately was in no such humour. It is a notorious fact, that when two wild elephants meet in a musth state, they never separate till one of them is destroyed. Their fight sometimes lasts a week, when the one which physically possesses the greatest capacity for fasting will destroy the other. Large male carcasses are thus frequently discovered by the elephant catchers, and their tusks are turned to a profitable account.

I was now greatly exhausted and blown, retreating after every shot to a fresh tree, the elephant invariably following me up. In a hurry I took up a position behind a tree which I should not have selected had I not been so fatigued. My opponent being from his wounds slow in pursuit enabled me to recover my wind,

and while doing so it struck me I had occupied a bad position, the tree not being much thicker than my body. I immediately retreated to another tree a few yards off, affording much better cover, and fortunate it was I did so, for I had barely taken up my new ground when the elephant again commenced hunting me up, and when within four yards of the tree I had just quitted, he stopped, and putting his trunk out, after clearing it and scenting for some minutes made a terrific rush. But this was fortunately nearly his last. On coming up to the tree he made sure I was behind it, and encircling it with his trunk he endeavoured to break it down. Failing in this, he half leaned, but in a very exhausted state, against the tree, and after two more efforts tore it up by the roots and cast it down. Evidently making sure that I was under it, he now knelt down and commenced driving his tusks into both sides of the tree, flattering himself that he was probing my carcass. I was only a few yards from him during this operation. Having considerably

revived, I determined upon acknowledging his good intentions. Stepping from behind the tree I had occupied whilst he was employed in his humane undertaking, I fired four shots successively into his forehead, which, however, stunned him. On reviving, he stuck his tusks heavily into the ground, and remained motionless for some minutes. I began to hope he was dead, and retreated to another position to reload.

My mouth was in a fearful state from thirst, my lips and tongue so cracked and parched, that they were bleeding profusely. The monster, to my disgust, again got up, but now very weak, and rolling about as if he had been indulging, *ad libitum*, in gin and leaden bitters. He staggered back with some difficulty, reached a tree, which he leant against. Jack now, for the first time during the encounter, spoke, or rather shouted, "By gar, Captin, him going." I began to think so, and stepped out to within three yards of him. He made two very drunken attempts to come at me, and I plied him well

with lead, so that he again reeled up against the tree. I retreated to re-load and had barely done so, when, to my great annoyance, I saw him moving again towards me, but now very feebly. He could hardly walk. I fired another shot at him, when he stopped, staggered, quietly drew his hind legs under him, then his fore, dropped his head heavily, and drove his tusks up to the roots in the ground, and then remained motionless. After waiting a quarter of an hour at least, during which time he never moved, we all agreed he was dead, and I proposed that Jack should go and ascertain the fact. To this Jack strongly objected. I then moved up and fired at the monster. The shot did not disturb him.

We now moved out, as I was convinced he was gone, and going some distance round we came up in his rear. I again proposed that Jack should go and pull his tail to ascertain if he was dead or merely feigning; Jack demurred, however, at this. I promised, however, to stand by him and protect him. He

then declared that he, Jack, had been dead himself, at least six times during the encounter; and that if I wanted to kill him outright, I had better shoot him at once. After some trouble, I persuaded him to follow me, and on going within five yards of the elephant's rear, I took a clot of earth and threw it at him. I then again proposed that, to make all safe, Jack should pull his tail. Jack continued his opposition, but as I knew there was no danger, and only wished to get a gallop out of him after the excited state he had been in for some hours, I urged his obedience. Jack now became desperate, going sideways towards the elephant's tail, and when within pulling distance, turning his head away, laying hold of it—giving it a pull, and then bolting as if he had a Congreve in his trowsers. After this feat, Jack never stopped until he had placed two hundred yards between himself and the dead elephant, when he gallantly faced about and finding he was not pursued, came back as fast as he could, entering immediately on his return into the

pedigree of the deceased elephant, and favouring its mother and sisters with numerous epithets unfit for ears polite.

Thus died the savage Shikar Bassa elephant, for ten years the terror of that part of the Nepaul forest, and for six months his carcass, despite the zeal and energy of vultures and jackalls, afforded the villagers olfactory testimony that his remains were exceedingly disagreeable.

For killing this elephant I was presented in open Durbar, by the Rajah and heir apparent, with a handsome Khillut, or dress of honour, which was of great value, but which, of course, I was obliged, after wearing a few hours, to make over to the British Treasury in Nepaul, where all presents, according to the invariable custom at every British Residency, are annually sold, and the proceeds placed to the credit of the Treasury.

Amongst the animals who infest the forests of Nepaul, are one of the largest of the wild ox tribe known, measuring at the shoulder from eighteen to twenty hands and of great power.

The bull is a very ferocious animal, it is called by the Nepaulese the Ghowrie Ghai. The body is of a brownish blue colour to the knee, and from that to the hoof white, with a very formidable pair of horns, about two feet long, and of about eighteen inches in diameter at the roots. It is strongly allied in my opinion to the musk-ox of South America. From the root of the horns to the back of the neck, a strong oily substance is emitted with a very powerful musky smell. A more formidable animal than the bull there is not to be found in the Nepaul forests; no tiger dares to approach a full grown one, and two of them have been known to drive off a rhinoceros. The Nepaulese, being Hindoos, venerate this animal although they do not actually worship it; and they have a great horror of any one destroying him. I, unfortunately, while on a sporting tour in their forests and accompanied by one of the mission lately in England, Kajee Delhi Sing, very suddenly came upon a large bull, who as quickly prepared to attack me. Delhi Sing appeared

horror stricken and entreated for his sake, and that of Nepaul, that I would not shed the blood of a descendant of a cow, for he assured me, I should never be able to kill him. Knowing their prejudices and wishing to humour him, I assured him I would not molest the son of a cow provided he would let me pass unmolested, which I pointed out to him he appeared in no humour to do, as he was bellowing and tearing up the ground at an awful rate. Delhi Sing then entreated me to run away; to this I would not consent, for in the first place I had no inclination, and in the second place being on foot I knew that flight would involve certain destruction. Delhi Sing determined, however, to shew me the way, and off he bolted, with the enraged bull after him. I immediately laid my rifle on the bull, and struck him well at the back of the shoulder, when over he rolled as dead as a stone.

The chiefs returned to me shortly afterwards, and expressed their great horror at what had occurred, assuring me something very dreadful

would befall me for destroying the animal; Delhi Sing, alone appeared satisfied at his narrow escape. The chiefs were still further greatly shocked on learning two days afterwards that I highly approved of a rump steak from the brute. I may here mention another anecdote of the animal's ferocity. Mr. B. Hodgson, the late Resident, at this Court, although not a practical sportsman, had five native keepers in his pay for the purpose of taming for him good zoological specimens. One of these fellows by the name of Prem, was induced, after much persuasion and the promise of a handsome reward, to go down to the forest, and endeavour to shoot a bull. Being a low caste man (a Chumar), he had no compunctions, and having been well found in ammunition and well primed with brandy, away he went, and the first evening of his arrival, he came upon a small herd with only one bull in sight. Thinking a cow the much safer of the two to encounter, he fired at and wounded one, when to his surprise down came the bull to the charge,

and up a tree bolted Prem, where he was kept the whole of the night, and the greater part of the following day by the bull, who steadily mounted guard under the tree. Thirst at last compelled the bull to drink, when down slipt poor Prem more dead than alive, leaving his gun and ammunition behind him, and never stopping until he got to the Presidency at Khatmandoo some forty miles distant; when he informed Mr. Hodgson of his adventure and narrow escape, vowing that nothing should ever induce him, again to go in search of the Ghowrie Ghai. He added that he far preferred skinning and stuffing to such a mission, and that the bull during the greater part of the night, in his rage at not being able to get hold of him, snorted fire and brimstone out of his nostrils to such an extent, that he nearly smoked him out of the tree. We, of course, had a hearty laugh at the latter part of this story. Prem, however, religiously kept his vow, and invariably refused to accompany me, even after I had killed several, alledging that he was a marked man among the bulls.

Bears are found both in the Nepaul forests and on the hills in great numbers; but I should be almost afraid to commit to paper, the numbers I have killed there, and the encounters and narrow escapes I have had. In many parts of the hills, particularly in the snow, the beautiful musk-deer is found, the privilege of destroying which is monopolized by the Durbar; a certain number of men being appointed annually for that purpose. A description of this curious little animal, and his habits may be interesting. The musk-deer, called in Nepaul Kustoora, is in size about as long as a small gazelle, beautifully formed, very active, and graceful in all its movements, and particularly shy. It inhabits all the most unfrequented parts of the hills, the male being much sought after for the musk-bag, which lies near the navel and is about the size of an egg. This musk is found only in the male deer, and, unless cut off before the animal is dead, the whole is absorbed in the system, and the pod becomes useless. They are therefore almost invariably taken by nooses.

The natives have many curious traditions

regarding this deer, especially as to the manner of the generation of the musk pod. The musk-deer, although one of the most timid and harmless, is at the same time one of the most deadly enemies the viper and adder have in the hills, and its mode of destroying them is curious. The ground on which the musk-deer are generally found, contains likewise large numbers of the small hill-adder, a reptile little more than eighteen inches long, but very venomous. It throws itself in the way of man or beast, and invariably bites them. The musk-deer, however, seek for and destroy the adders, wherever they find them, in the following manner. The deers travel generally in pairs; the first that discovers an adder, gives a sharp snort through the nostril, when the other deer immediately comes to its side. The two now commence a series of the most eccentric gambols, jumping and skipping about, over each other's backs, and running round the viper in a circle (I may here mention that the inner hoof of the musk-deer is black and hard, and as sharp as a knife),

and after jumping over the adder for five or six minutes, the male strikes it with the fore-foot so rapidly, that the eye cannot follow it, and the adder is thereby immediately destroyed. He then, with two blows, severs the head from the body, after which he displays his triumph and satisfaction by a series of gambols round and over the dead adder and then lies down. On these occasions the musk-deer is invariably followed by a large buzzard or kite, who, as soon as the deer lies down, flies to and carries off the headless body of the dead adder to the nearest rock and there devours it. The charge of carnivorousness, laid to the poor musk by the ignorant natives, is thus accounted for and removed. I may add that the favourite food of the musk-deer is a bulbous kind of wild garlic, for the digging up of which nature has provided the male with two small tusks in the upper jaw, about three inches long, and of the thickness of a common quill; with these he digs up the bulb, which smells as powerfully, when fresh, as the strongest musk, and from

this food undoubtedly the glutinous and musky matter contained in the bag of the deer is generated.

The next animal to be found in the Nepaul hills worthy of description is the Dhole or wild-dog. These animals are found in packs varying from fifty to two hundred, and the havoc committed by them among the flocks of sheep and hill-cattle is incredible. Their destruction of deer also is immense, and their mode of doing so may be worthy of mention. In size the wild-dog is little larger than the common jackal of India, but longer in the body and possessing much greater power, with a very formidable set of jaws—colour, a rich reddish-brown, with scenting qualities of the highest order.

Soon after nightfall the pack assemble at a given cry, when they disperse in threes and fours in search of game. The first party that hit off the trail, open, when the whole pack rush to them, and when all are assembled fasten to the trail and off they go. The deer

soon become alarmed and double, when the pack immediately tell off in parties, each one rushing to the different passes for which deer are known to make, and on the deer attempting to pass either, he is immediately seized by the party, who utter a simultaneous cry, and the whole pack then rush in and the deer is at once devoured. Fresh game is next sought, and in the same way destroyed, and this species of hunting is continued according to the size of pack, till all their appetites are appeased, when they retire to their almost inaccessible fastnesses in the rocks, and remain for three or four days, until hunger again drives them forth on another excursion.

From their destructive qualities, the wild-dogs hardly ever remain longer than a month in the same locality, having in that time effectually scared away all the deer for miles round. I never knew them to attack man, and even when severely wounded they will only snap at you after the manner of a wounded jackal. When deer are not procurable, they will attack even

bears, an instance of which I will here record. In the adventure, such as it was, I had the advantage of the society of two gentlemen then travelling through India for their amusement. One of them (now an M.P. and who will doubtless remember the circumstance,) did me the honour to share the rough hospitalities of my sporting box at Budraj in the hills. My keepers, one morning brought intelligence that there had been a considerable row all night at the foot of a hill some few miles off, the exact cause of which they could not account for, but that it was certain a noted bear, whose vocal powers they were well acquainted with, was a leading party in the tumult, and had evidently got into trouble. We immediately got every thing ready and started, and on getting within a quarter of a mile of the place, distinctly heard a very considerable uproar, in which Bruin was taking a leading part. My friends, from having been only a short time in the hills, knew not what to make of the noise, but seventeen years of sporting practice in those hills, soon told me what

was the matter, although I will confess I never had previously caught the parties engaged as they now were. It was agreed that I should precede my associates, and ascertain the position of the tumultuous pack and how to get at them. This I did, taking with me two of my favourite keepers. On cautiously descending, and getting within two hundred yards of the locality of the noise, I witnessed a scene I shall never forget. There was Bruin standing up on his hind legs against a large tree, foaming with rage and exhaustion, tearing down large branches and pitching them right and left. Surrounding him were sixteen or seventeen wild-dogs, baying and snapping at him. Poor Bruin's breeches afforded evident proof that the dogs had not been idle. The bear was nearly exhausted, and certainly could not have held out an hour longer. I therefore determined on cautiously returning and informing my friends of what was going on. On doing so and reconnoitering still further, it was ascertained that not more than two or three persons could approach the combatants

again without disturbing them; and a couple of wild dogs under such circumstances being anxiously wished for, and my rifle being known to rarely, if ever, miss its object, it was proposed that I should again go alone accompanied by my two keepers.

Approaching the party once more very cautiously, and getting within two hundred yards of them, I found the wild-dogs had not been idle during the twenty minutes of my absence. The bear was now sitting down on his torn and disfigured breech, making awful faces, and roaring hideously. My rifle was soon at my shoulder, and over rolled two wild-dogs to my right and left barrel, and away scampered the rest of the pack. On descending I found Bruin incapable of moving from the spot. He seemed almost inclined to welcome my appearance, but one of my keepers, a wicked rascal called "Bucktoo," threw a stone at him, upon which he tried to charge us, and I was obliged to put a stop to his intentions by shooting him dead. On examining him, I

found his hind quarters sadly disfigured, and his skin so much torn, as to render it unfit for anything but a memento of the occurrence.

I have said above that the fish in the Nepaul rivers is abundant. The principal kind which inhabits the Raptee, is the sehr, a fish much resesembling the roach and greatly esteemed, and the gaoleer or trout. The manner of fishing may be described in a very few words. The channel of the river is intersected by seven or eight casting nets, united together by being hooked at their extremities to poles, or sticks erected in the water for that purpose. To each net there is a man or boy, who has a second net fixed to his waist and hanging behind him, in which he deposits the fish he catches. This he does by diving. The fishermen dive head foremost, though in water not deeper than their middle, throwing up their feet nearly quite erect, and seizing the fish either with their teeth or their hands. After remaining some time at a particular spot, all the nets are dragged together further down the stream, when the fishermen renew their operations

These being over, they draw the casting nets separately; some of which, as well as those round their waists, are often quite full. In the river Tadi, which, augmented by the waters of the Sindoora and Bailhote rivulets, winds round the south point of the Chardi-baisi hill, there are eels of a very large size, and of excellent flavour. The usla, a fish not unlike the British salmon in taste, is also found in the Tadi, and the phaketa abounds in the stream. The phaketa is a species of small fish, remarkable both for the swiftness with which it glides through the water, and the singular construction of its superior fins, which resemble a fan both in form and in the manner in which they open and close.

Of the entomological tribe of Nepaul, nothing need be said. The insects and reptiles correspond with all those of Hindostan; the only exception being the bee, which is numerous in the valley, providing excellent honey, and supplying the wax which forms so important an article of commerce.

CHAPTER V.

THE INHABITANTS OF NEPAUL, ESPECIALLY THE MILITARY TRIBES.

THE inhabitants of Nepaul consist chiefly of Brahmins and Ketries, with their various subdivisions of Newars, Dherwars, Mhargies, Bhootias, and Bhamas. The former of these compose the army, engross all situations of trust, whether civil or military, and are dispersed promiscuously throughout the country. The Newars are confined almost to the valley of Nepaul. The Dherwars and Mhargies are the husbandmen and fishers of the western districts; and the Bhootias, though some families of them

are planted in the lower lands, occupy, generally speaking, such parts of the Kachâr as are included in the Nepaul territories. The Bhamas are a sort of separatists from the Newars, supposed to amount to five thousand; they shave their heads like the Bhootias, observe many of the religious rites, as well as civil costume of their idolaters, in a dialect of whose language they are said to preserve their sacred writings. To the eastward of Nepaul some districts are inhabited by Limboos, Naggunkotes, and others.

The Newars are divided into several casts or orders, most of which derive their origin, like those among the more ancient Hindoos, from a primitive classification, according to trades and occupations.

The peasantry of the Parbattiahs, or hill-people, are divided into four classes, denominated Onwals, Doems, Scoons, and Chaurems. These are Persian terms, and denote first, second, third, and fourth. The Onwals are those peasants who possess five ploughs and upwards; the Doems, such as have from one

to five; the Scooms are those whom, without being proprietors of ploughs, are considered to be at the head of a few or more labourers; and the lands of Nepaul proper are cultivated, almost without exception, by Newars; those to the westward, as Noorkale, &c., by the Parbatty tribe, called Dherwara.

The Ryots or peasantry are distinguished also into Koohrya and Perjà. The former are those settled in Bertha proprietory, or other rent-free lands, and are not liable to be called on by government for any services, except the repair of roads, and attendance in the army upon particular occasions. The Perjàs, who occupy lands actually belonging to the Prince, though perhaps in the immediate possession of Jagheerdars, are, on the contrary, obliged to perform various services, both at the call of the Jagheerdar and of the Prince.

The great aboriginal stock of the inhabitants of the mountains, east of the river Kâli, as in Nepaul, is Mongol. The fact is inscribed, in characters so plain, upon their faces, forms, and

languages, that we may well dispense with the superfluous and vain attempt to trace it historically in the meagre chronicles of barbarians.

But, from the twelfth century downwards, the tide of Mussulman conquest and bigotry continued to sweep multitudes of the Brahmins of the plains from Hindostan into the proximate hills, which now compose the western territories of the kingdom of Nepaul. There the Brahmins soon located themselves; they found the natives illiterate, and without faith, but fierce and proud.

Their object was to make them converts to Hindooism, and so to confirm the fleeting influence derived from their learning and politeness. They saw that the barbarians had vacant minds, ready to receive their doctrines, but spirits not apt to stoop to degradation; and they acted accordingly. To the earliest and most distinguished of their converts they communicated, in defiance of the creed they taught, the lofty rank and honours of the Kshatriya order. But the Brahmins had sensual passions

to gratify, as well as ambition. They found the native females, even the most distinguished, nothing loath—but still of a temper, like that of the males, prompt to repel indignities.

These females would, indeed, welcome the polished Brahmins to their embraces; but their offspring must not be stigmatised as the infamous progeny of a Brahmin, and a Mlechha must, on the contrary, be raised to eminence in the new order of things introduced by their fathers. To this progeny also, then, the Brahmins, in still greater defiance of their creed, communicated the rank of the second order of Hindooism; and from these two roots, mainly, sprang the now numerous, predominant, and extensively ramified tribe of the Khás, originally the name of a small clan of creedless barbarians, now the proud title of the Kshatriya, or military order of the kingdom of Nepaul. The offspring of original Khás females and of Brahmins, with the honours and rank of the second order of Hindooism, obtained the patronymic titles of the first order; and hence the key to the

anomalous nomenclature of so many stripes of the military tribes of Nepaul, is to be sought in the nomenclature of the sacred order.

It may be added, as remarkably illustrative of the lofty spirit of the Parbattiahs, that in spite of the yearly increasing sway of Hindooism in Nepaul, and of the various attempts of Brahmins in high places to procure the abolition of a custom so radically opposed to the creed both parties now profess, the Khás still insist that the fruit of commerce (marriage is out of the question), between their females and males of the sacred order shall be ranked as Kshatriyas, wear the thread, and assume the patronymic title.

The original Khás, thus favoured by it, became soon entirely devoted to the Brahminical system. The progress of Islam below, daily poured fresh refugees among them. They availed themselves of the superior knowledge of the strangers, to subdue the neighbouring tribes of aborigines, were successful beyond their hopes, and in such a career, continuing for

ages, gradually merged the greater part of their own habits, ideas, and language (but not physiognomy), in those of the Hindoos. The Khás language became a corrupt dialect of Hindee, retaining not many palpable traces (except to curious eyes), of primitive barbarism.

The Elthariahs are the descendants, more or less pure, of Rájpoots and other Kshatriyas of the plains, who sought refuge in these mountains from the Moslem, or merely military service, as adventurers. With fewer aims of policy and readier means in their bright swords, of requiting the protection afforded them than had the Brahmins, they had less motive to mix their proud blood with that of the vile aborigines than the Brahmins felt the impulse of, and they did mix it less. Hence, to this hour, they claim a vague superiority over the Khás, notwithstanding that the pressure of the great tide of events around them has, long since, confounded the two races in all essentials. Those among the Kshatriyas of the plains, who

were more lax, and allied themselves with the Khás females in concubinage, were permitted to give to their children, so begotten, the patronymic title only, not the rank. But their children again, if they married for two generations into the Khás, became pure Khás, or real Kshatriyas, in point of privilege and rank, though no longer so in name. They were Khás, not Kshatriyas; and yet they bore the proud cognomina of the martial order of the Hindoos, and were in the land of their nativity, entitled to every prerogative which Kshatriya birth confers in Hindoostan. Such is the third and less fruitful root of the Khás race. The Elthariahs speak the Khás language, and they speak no other.

The Thâkuris differ from the Elthariahs, only by the accidental circumstance of their lineage being royal. At some former period, and in some little state or other, their progenitors were princes.

The remaining military tribes of the Parbattiahs are the Nagar and Gurûng, who now

upply numbers of the soldiers of that state. From lending themselves less early and heartily to Brahminical influence than the Khás, they have retained, in vivid freshness, their original languages, physiognomy, and, in a less degree, habits. To their own untaught ears, their languages differ entirely the one from the other; but, in very truth, only as remote dialects of one great tongue, the type of which is the language of Tibet. Their physiognomies, too, have peculiarities proper to each, but with the general Calmuk caste and character in both. The Gurûngs are less generally and more recently redeemed from Lamaism and primitive impurity than the Magars.

But, though both Gurûngs and Magars still maintain their own vernacular tongues, Tartar faces, and careless manners; yet, what with military service for several generations, under the predominant Khás, and what with their commerce of Khás males with their females, they have acquired the Khás language, though not to the oblivion of their own; and the Khás

habits and sentiments, but with sundry reservations in favour of pristine liberty. As they have, however, with such grace as they could muster, submitted themselves to the ceremonial law of purity, and to Brahmin supremacy, they have been adopted as Hindoos.

But partly owing to the licenses above glanced at, and partly by reason of the necessity of distinctions of casts to Hindooism, they have been denied the thread, and constituted a doubtful order below it, and yet not Vaisya nor Sudra, but a something superior to both the latter, which it might puzzle the Shastras to explain on Hindoo principles.

The Brahmins of Nepaul are much less generally addicted to arms than those of the plains; and they do not, therefore, properly belong to our present subject. The enumeration of the Brahmins is nevertheless necessary, as serving to elucidate the lineage and connection of the military tribes, and especially of the Khás.

The martial classes of Nepaul are, then, the

Khás, Magar, and Gurûng; each comprising a very numerous clan or race, variously ramified and subdivided.

The original seat of the Khás is ordinarily said to be Goorkha, because it was thence immediately that they issued, seventy years ago, under the guidance of Prithi Narayan, to acquire the fame and dominion achieved by him and his successors of the Goorkhali dynasty. But the Khás were, long previously to the age of Prithi Narayan, extensively spread over the whole of the Choubésya; and they are now found in every part of the existing kingdom of Nepaul. The Khás are rather more devoted to the house of Goorkha, as well as more liable to Brahminical prejudice than the Margarsar Gurûngs; and, on both accounts, are somewhat less desirable as soldiers for our service than the latter tribes. I say somewhat, because it is a mere question of degree; the Khás having, certainly, no religious prejudices, nor probably any national partialities, which would prevent their making excellent and faithful servants in

arms; and they possess permanently that masculine energy of character, and love of enterprise, which distinguishes so advantageously all the military races of Nepaul.

The original seat of the Magars is the Bara Mangrouth, or Satahung, Payung, Bhirkot, Dhar, Garahung, Rising, Ghiring, Gulmi, Argha, Khache, Musikot, and Isma; in other words, most of the central and lower parts of the mountains between the Bhêre and Marsyánde rivers. The attachment of the Magars to the house of Goorkha is but recent, and of no extraordinary or intimate nature. Still less so is that of the Gurûngs, whose native seats occupy a line of country parallel to that of the Magars, to the north of it, and extending to snows in that direction. Modern events have spread the Magars and Gurûngs over the most part of the present kingdom of Nepaul. The Gurûngs and Magars are, in the main, Hindoos, only because it is the fashion; and the Hindooism of the Khás, in all practical and soldierly respects, is free of disqualifying punctilio.

These highland soldiers, who despatch their meal in half an hour, and satisfy the ceremonial law by merely washing their hands and face, and taking off their turbans before cooking, laugh at the pharisaical rigour of our Sepoys who must bathe from head to foot, and make Pooja (or worship) ere they begin to dress their dinner, must eat nearly naked in the coldest weather, and cannot be in marching time again in less than three hours. In war, the former readily carry several days' provisions on their backs; the latter would deem such an act intolerably degrading. The former see in foreign service nothing but the prospect of glory and spoil: the latter can discover in it nothing but pollution and peril from unclean men, and terrible wizards, goblins, and evil spirits. In masses, the former have all that indomitable confidence, each and all, which grows out of national integrity and success: the latter can have no idea of sentiment, which maintains the union and resolution of multitudes in peril, better than all other human bonds whatever.

It has been calculated that there are at this

time in Nepaul no less than thirty thousand Dakhriahs, or soldiers off the roll by rotation, belonging to the above three tribes. There does not exist any insuperable obstacle to our obtaining, in one form or other, the services of a large body of these men; and such are their energy of character, love of enterprise, and freedom from the shackles of caste, that their services, if once obtained, would soon come to be most highly prized.

In the opinion of competent judges, they are by far the best soldiers in India; and if they were made participators of our own renown in arms, their gallant spirit and unadulterated military habits might be relied on for fidelity; and our good and regular pay, and noble pension-establishment would serve to counterpoise the influnce of nationality, especially in the Magars and Gurûngs.

CHAPTER VI.

MANNERS—CUSTOMS—LAWS.

NEPAUL having been ruled for many centuries past by Rypoot juries, and the various classes of Hindoos appearing, in all periods, to have composed a great portion of its population; it is natural to expect a great resemblance in manners and customs between this part of its inhabitants and the kindred sects of the adjacent countries. In one essential particular, however, these mountaineers are prominently discriminated, and that is, by a simplicity of character invariably observable amongst them. This feature is attributable to the Nepaulese, either from their secluded situations or some

other still more operative cause; yet the simplicity which distinguishes these people, manifests itself no less in the higher than in the lower ranks of life. It appears in public and in private life without ostentation or parade, and is accompanied by a plainness and serenity of deportment, and probably by an integrity of conduct, not commonly met with among their more polished or opulent brethren.

Between the Newars and the Hindoos of Nepaul, a similarity subsists, as well in character, customs, manners, and features, as in religious rites; and the Punchayat system, so universal in India, is in vogue in Nepaul. The Punchayats in use are of two kinds, domestic and public; the latter being called upon to settle suits before the courts, the former to settle matters never brought under the court's cognizance.

Domestic Punchayats are very popular, especially among merchants, whose wealth attracts the cupidity of the courts, and the community of whom can, on the other hand, always furnish intelligent referees or Punchmen. To

the public Punchayat all matters may be referred (with the exception of cases of life destroyed), at the discretion of the courts, or at the desire of the parties : but cases of battery and assault are not usually referred to these tribunals.

The Punchmen are appointed by the Dilha (presiding judge of the court), at the solicitation of the parties, with whom solely the selection lies. After selection by the parties, the Dilha takes from them an obligation to abide by the award of the Punchayat. The court, or government, never appoint Punchayats of their own nation, except when men of note are accused, or if parties expressly solicit it by petition to the government; but no man can sit on a Punchayat without the assent of both parties. A Punchayat of this sort often acts the part of a jury when men of note are accused, the government nominating the Punchmen. In civil actions, too, the parties, tired of litigating, will sometimes desire the court or government to nominate a Punchayat to hear and decide with-

out appeal. Ordinarily Punchayats are chosen purely by the parties, and half the judicial business of the kingdom is performed by them to the satisfaction alike of the parties, the public, and the government. The function of the Punchmen appears to be essentially that of jurors: they find the verdict, and the court, out of which they issue, and in which they assemble, merely enforces their finding. When needless delay occurs, the matter is taken out of the hands of the Punchayat, and decided by the court. The Punchayat has no power of its own to summon or enforce the attendance of any person, or to make an unwilling witness depose, or to secure the production of necessary papers; all such executive aid being afforded by the court appointing it. The assumption of any power of their own by the Punchayat would be a grave offence. The Punch are required to be unanimous: such, at least, is the rule; but a very large majority will suffice in certain cases. They receive no compensation for travelling expenses, or loss of time, on any account what-

ever: indeed, the very idea of compensating them is abhorred.

The popular religion of Nepaul differs in nothing from the Hindooism of Bengal and other parts of India, except so far as the secluded nature of the country might have preserved it in a state of superior orthodoxy and purity.

There are in all twenty temples, viz., Pusputnath, Chauko Nerain, Bhujjerjoagni or Bhudderjoagni, Tillycjoo or Tullejoo, Dukheen Kali, Jagaisher, Seeker Nerain, Mutchendernath, Toolaja Bhuwani, Bishenath, Gooshja Kali, Gorukhnath, Chundaisseri, Bhugowty, Sheepadhol, Bheem Sein, Bhauda, Dhoomja, Koossaisur, and Goorkha Munkamana.

The following is a list of the principal festivals:

Chownsuthi jatra.
Koond jatra.
Bhagmutty jatra.
Bishenmatty jatra.
Munmutty jatra.

Roodemutty jatra.
Sunnaish jatra.
Bhogowty jatra.
Jakhri jatra.
Indra jatra.
Sersutty jatra.
Mutchender jatra.
Bhoagnath jatra.
Bhyroo jatra.
Pustanmook.

In addition to these, and some others not named, there is a grand festival occasionally observed, which lasts four months. It consists in visiting the shrines of all the gods in Nepaul, said to be in number 2,733.

Proselytism has not made much way within the Nepaulese dominions, but the Newar families, who have permanently settled in Thibet as traders, have embraced Christianity, as practised among the Thibetans. Catholicism is the form of their Christianity. Near Digarchee and Lassa, or Thibet, there are

several very old Catholic churches, but the date of their establishment has not been very clearly ascertained.

The trade of Nepaul is by no means so extensive or consequently so beneficial to its government and inhabitants as under proper regulations it would become. The channel of Nepaul offers inducements for an extensive trade between Thibet and the Company's dominions, highly beneficial both to the government of Nepaul and to the commercial interest of the English nation. The following are the principal exports: elephants, elephants' teeth, rice, timber, hides, ginger, kuth or terra Japonica, turmeric, wax, honey, behrozeh or pure resin, walnuts, oranges, long pepper, long pepper root, gheei tugh, tajpat, large cardamums, raal or dammer, lamp oil, cotton, Tangans and small Turk horses of Laddakh, and other northern parts of Thibet, sheep, shawl goats, Chowri bullocks, musk-deer, dogs, falcons, pheasants, chuckoars or fire-eaters; gold in dust, grains, and small lumps; borax, salt, sulphur, antimony, arsenic,

orpiment, musk, chownries or cowtails, rugs or coarse blankets, munjheet, cheraita, raw lac, cherries, bikma, jaithamasi, and various other medicinal drugs. The imports comprise doputtahs, saries, dhoties, kim khaub, gool budduns, phoolams, mushroos, oornies, taffetas, buftas, cossahs, doorcas, chintz, mulmuls, broad cloth, shawls, jemawar shawl pieces, shawl ruzzies, raw silk, gold and silver laces, carpets, English cutlery of sorts, saffron, cloves, mace, nutmegs, Guzerat cardamums, black pepper, betle-nuts, red sandal wood, white sandal wood, alum, vermilion, quicksilver, shell lac, red wood, krypas, tin, zinc, lead, soap, camphire, red pepper or chilly, conch shells, Oude billah, tobacco and coral.

The manufactures consist principally of coarse cloth, iron, copper, and brass utensils and ornaments, cutlery, bells, spirituous liquors, salt, and saltpetre.

The currency of Nepaul consists principally of silver pieces of eight annas. There are also some of sixteen annas struck, called siccas, but

their circulation is confined to Nepaul Proper, and is far from being common even there. The sicca has indeed been known in this country since the time of Prithee Nurayun. Besides the preceding coins, there is one of the value of the 288th part of a sicca, called a maduch. This piece is not in ordinary or general use, any more than the minute gold coins which are sometimes struck at the mint of Khatmandoo. Even the ushrufii or gold rupee may be considered rather as a medal than a current coin. The silver eight-anna piece is termed "mohur" and "uddhailee." The copper coins are called chadams, dodams, &c.; thirty-six of the former usually go to the mohur or eight-anna piece.

The language principally spoken by the Nepaulese is called the Goorkhallee; but it is, in point of fact, a corrupt dialect, like the Hindostannee. The other vernacular languages are the Parbuttee, the Newar, the Nagur, the Dhemvur, the Muggur, the Kirranti, the Howas or Hyoo, the Limboo, and the Bhootra. The

Sanscrit is considerably cultivated by the Brahmins only.

The only instrument is the plough, which is scarcely known among the Newars; only a few of those occupying the lands about Thankote employ it. Their prejudice against the use of it, would seem to have originated in the extraordinary reverence entertained by the people for the bullock. Since, though they have no scruples with regard to buffaloes, they deem it the highest sacrilege to approach even the image of a bullock, except in a posture of adoration; insomuch that a malicious person wishing to suspend the agricultural operations of his neighbour, would be sure to effect his purpose by placing a stone or wooden figure of a cow in the midst of his fields.

In person the Nepaulese are in general of middle size, all head, shoulders and chest, very stout limbs, round and rather flat faces, small eyes, low and somewhat spreading noses, and open and cheerful countenances. The Nepaulese of the plains are peaceable, industrious and

ingenious, greatly attached to the superstitions they profess, and tolerably reconciled to their lot. They are courageous, capable of very great labour, and besides, being chiefly agriculturists, they almost exclusively cultivate all the arts and manufactures known to India, their powers of imitation in manufactures, especially in that of arms, and all vessels and ornaments of gold, silver, &c., being very superior. As the country produces good iron, they are able to manufacture excellent steel; indeed the blade of the kookery, or war-knife, of the Goorkha is unequalled for its temper and keen edge.

All their artillery are cast of brass: they have several 12-pounders. They perfectly understand melting copper, tin, and zinc together, also the proportions for making brass. They are moreover celebrated for their bell metal: some of their gongs, for instance, would be highly prized in many a nobleman's domain; and a few of these at the Great Exhibition last year, were much admired, and doubtless ensured

many orders for the gong manufacturers in Khatmandoo. For the same great occasion, specimens of some of the beautiful furs, monthly obtainable in Khatmandoo, from Lassa and Digurchee, in Thibet, might be imported. These two large cities are great fur depôts: they are only forty marches from Khatmandoo. It is, however, deserving of consideration, whether by encouraging a direct fur trade, we should not be unintentionally giving *offence to Russia*, for a very large portion of the Russian fur trade is derived from this part of Thibet, and certainly by far the most valuable furs are obtained there. I have seen some of the most beautiful dresses made of furs brought by the native merchants from these cities; and I once purchased from one of them a fur cloak with thick silk lining for one hundred and fifty Moree rupees, in English money little more than ten pounds. A few enterprising English merchants (the Nepaul restrictions on commerce being removed, and protection from plunder and extortion guaran-

teed) would very soon ensure the whole of the Thibetan trade being drawn to Calcutta, which, I have before mentioned, is only two hundred miles from the Nepaul frontier, with water carriage from the foot of the hills. The transaction might also lead to a most desirable object, viz., the diverting the attention of the Nepaulese from their ruling idea, that they are strictly a military nation. They have, singularly enough, retained this notion during upwards of thirty years' peace.

A striking proof of the military propensities of the Nepaulese is to be found in the eagerness with which they rush into the army. In the annual enrolment of the soldiers required for the peace establishment of Nepaul, those who are required to serve, instead of receiving bounty for enlistment actually *pay* sums to be entertained, varying according to their means, from thirty to sixty Moree rupees. Their pay is very small—in some regiments only four Moree rupees per month, being just three Company's rupees, or six shillings British money. In this

way, the whole population of Nepaul in seven years learns more or less of the duties of a soldier. The standing army amounts in peace to about sixteen thousand men per annum, ergo, on the annual enrolment plan, one hundred and twelve thousand men in seven years would have learnt at least the use of the musket, with a few notions of marching and counter-marching, forming square, column, quarter distance, and marching past by companies in review, which is the fullest extent of all the manœuvres I ever saw them practise on parade. Their instructors take it for granted they are good marksmen for no powder or ball is ever expended on target practice.

It may not be out of place to say something of the laws of Nepaul, and the way in which they are administered. The laws for political offences depend entirely upon the strength or weakness of the party they are enforced against; and his guilt or innocence depends upon the faction in power. I was much amused one day by being seriously informed by one of the

high priests of Nepaul and an ex-minister, the late Gooroo, Rugnauth Pundit, that it was thus written in a very old Hindoo work in his possession, and of the truth of which he said I was aware, "That those seeking for learning should go to Benares—those seeking for *justice* should go to Nepaul, or rather Goorkha, which is fifty miles farther north." My own impression, although I did not tell the learned priest so, was—"You might seek it, possibly find it, but it would be a very dangerous experiment."

One of their laws regarding adultery, is not only a very summary one, but often very gratifying to the feelings of an injured husband. Should such a crime be perpetrated, as it often is during the absence of the husband, and be detected, he, on his return, is duly informed of the stain on his honour, and is an outcast until the stain be removed. He is neither permitted to eat with, smoke with, nor even visit, his friends and relations, until he has avenged the disgrace. He accordingly sets

to work immediately; but as the seducer, on the return of the husband, contrives to make himself scarce, the injured man has to await patiently his return, or the opportunity of meeting him. In this way sometimes years are spent. At length, perhaps, the wished-for moment arrives. The wronged husband waylays his dishonourer; steals up to him as he would to a deer; quietly draws his kookery, rushes behind him, and with one blow severs his head from his body. Justice is now done; his honour is avenged; and he is admitted to caste. One little trifle alone remains; he has to cut his wife's nose off, which is soon done, to prevent any one falling in love with her again.

CHAPTER VII.

HISTORY OF NEPAUL.

It would be vain to attempt to produce, from the confused and contradictory documents available to us, anything like consistent relations of the theory and gradations by which the Goorkhas (the aboriginal inhabitants of Goorkhaina, a mountain city in Nepaul, in Lat. 27 52 N. Long. 84 2 2 E.) rose to power, in the hilly tract stretching between the plains of Hindostan and the highlands of Tartary and Thibet. Still less competent are we to trace the history of Nepaul *anterior* to the conquest, which changed the character of the

country and materially enlarged its political dimensions. Let us be satisfied with a rough sketch of the rise and progress of Nepaul from the year 1760 and thereabouts.

For a considerable time anterior to 1760, it seems that the hill-chieftains or rajahs—an ignorant, selfish set of petty tyrants—had been at issue with their subjects and neighbours, and more particularly with their own relations. Thus, while there was amongst them no principle of combination for mutual defence against a common enemy, not one of the petty principalities was sufficiently strong or united within itself to be capable of substantial resistance.

The Goorkha chiefs were at all times as ready to apply the influence of intrigue as open force, and could well combine both for the prosecution of their ends. They had a regular army, obedient to its officers, and the whole in proper subordination to the state. This was always available to the weaker party, upon conditions, and the frequent internal

dissensions of the rajas, which successively came to form the Goorkha frontier, never failed to produce the invitation.

Prithee Nurayun Sah a Goorkha, has the merit of establishing the system which raised the Nepaul nation to power. Taught by the example of our early victories in Bengal, he armed and disciplined a body of troops after the English fashion; and after a struggle of more than ten years, finally subjugated the valley of Nepaul by their means in 1768. The Moorshedabad Nuwab (Kasim Ulee Khan) attempted to interfere in 1762-63, but sustained a signal defeat under the walls of Muckwanpore; and the British Government was not more successful in an effort made some years after to succour the last of the Sooruj Bunsee dynasty, who reigned at Khatmandhoo.*

* The expedition was undertaken at the recommendation of Mr. Golding, the Commercial Agent at Betia, who feared that the success of the Goorkhas would ruin the trade he before carried on with Nepaul: it had been interrupted for three or four years in consequence

Prithee Nurayun dying in 1771, his son Singh Purtab, and, in 1775, his grandson, Run Bahadur came successively to the throne; the latter, however, being an infant, Buhadur Sah, another son of Prithee Nurayun, struggled long with his brother's widow for the Regency. Her death at last gave him the ascendancy.

During the regency of Buhadur Sah, Mr. Jonathan Duncan of the Bengal Civil Service, then Resident at Benares, (afterwards a dis-

of the subjugation of Muckwanpore. Major Kinloch commanded the party destined for the relief of the Nepaul rajah. He was a good officer; but advanced into the hills a month at least too early (in October, 1767), and had not strength enough to establish a chain of depôts to secure his communication with the plains; consequently, having penetrated to Hureehurpoor, he was detained there by a nulla, not fordable, and the bridge and raft he constructed were carried away after a fall of rain, which swelled the torrent unnaturally. The delay thus experienced exhausted his supplies, and produced sickness; so that, finally, he was obliged to return early in December—the time when, properly, he should have set out.

tinguished Governor of Bombay) entered into a commercial treaty with the Nepaulese, which secured certain advantages to the merchants of Hindostan and was by no means unprofitable to the former. The arrangement, however, though warmly supported by the Governor-General, the able Marquis of Cornwallis, and most cordially, conscientiously and scrupulously fulfilled on the part of the British, did not endure. The habitual jealousy of the Goorkhas, fostered if not influenced by the insidious representations of individuals desirous of preserving the exclusive influence and profitable monopoly which that jealousy had enabled them to acquire, and which they saw endangered by the closer approach of the two governments, either wholly prevented the removal, or soon led to the revival, of many of those impediments to a secure and active trade which it had been the express purpose of the recent treaty to obviate. Accordingly, little or no progress had been made in effectuating the enlightened views of the framer of the treaty,

when the course of events seemed, on a sudden, to furnish a peculiarly favourable occasion for accomplishing their complete realisation.

The court of Pekin, resenting certain encroachments which had been made by the government of Nepaul upon the rights of the Lama of Tibet, whom the Emperor of China had, for some time past, taken under his protection, or in other words, had subjected to the Chinese yoke, came to the resolution of chastising the aggressor, or, the Robber, as the Rajah of Nepaul was contemptuously styled in the Chinese dispatches to Lord Cornwallis on the occasion. For this purpose, a considerable army was detached (under the command of a kinsman of the Emperor), which after traversing the dreary and elevated regions of Tibet, had penetrated, with little other opposition besides what was presented by the nature of the intervening countries, within a short distance of the city of Khatmandoo. It was then that the ruling power of Nepaul, which, in consequence of the minority of the

reigning rajah, was at this period vested in a regency, alarmed at the danger with which it saw the kingdom menaced, earnestly implored the assistance of the Bengal government.

This government now beheld for the first time, the extraordinary spectacle of a numerous Chinese force occupying a position which probably afforded a distant view of the valley of the Ganges, and of the richest of the East India Company's possessions. It is true, that the military character of that people was not of a stamp to excite, under any circumstances, much fear for the safety of those possessions from their future enterprises. Least of all had we anything to apprehend from this quarter at the period in question, when we had just signally humbled our most formidable enemy and were at complete peace throughout India. Still, however, if, by subduing Nepaul, the Chinese were to establish themselves permanently in our neighbourhood, the border disputes always incident to such a situation would be but too liable to disturb more or less, the commercial

relations subsisting between them and the East India Company in another section of Asia. No event, therefore, was more to be deprecated than the conquest of Nepaul by the Chinese: and yet it would have been a question of considerable difficulty and delicacy how to have frustrated such a design, if it had been actually entertained by the invaders. Military aid, which was what the regency of Nepaul had solicited of the British Government, could not be afforded without a direct departure from the system of policy laid down for its general guidance by the legislature; or without producing the immediate suspension, if not utter annihilation of our trade with Canton.

Such aid was therefore implicitly and steadily refused, but the assistance which could be properly granted was readily offered. This consisted in a tender of the mediation of our government for the purpose of effecting an amicable accommodation between the belligerents, and in a proposal to dispatch with all practicable expedition to the head-quarters of

the Chinese army, a British envoy furnished with suitable powers and instructions for the occasion. This offer, though falling far short of what was desired, and, perhaps, expected by the Nepaul Regency, was, nevertheless, accepted; and Captain William Kirkpatrick was, in consequence, appointed to conduct the proposed negociation in conjunction with the court of Khatmandoo.

But although the envoy lost no time in repairing to Patna, from whence he was to be conducted by a deputation to be sent thither for the purpose, from Nepaul, he found at his arrival at the former place, that the Regency, either dubious of the efficacy of our interposition with the Chinese, or fearful of the influence which, if successful, it might give us in their future councils, or, possibly, really intimidated by the menacing attitude of the enemy, had suddenly, and without any reference to the British government, concluded such a treaty with the invaders, as entirely superseded the necessity of the proposed mediation. The

treaty alluded to was never formally communicated to the British government, but there is reason to believe that though it rescued the dominions of the Goorkhali from the more immediate danger with which they appeared to be threatened, it was, in other respects, by no means honourable to the rulers of that country; especially if it be true, as was affirmed at the time by some intelligent persons, that a little more firmness on the part of the Regency would speedily have compelled the Chinese (who had suffered greatly from sickness and scarcity, and were not less impatient to quit Nepaul, than the Nepaulians were to get rid of them), to solicit the accommodation, which they were permitted to make a merit of granting.

Notwithstanding, however, that the original ground of the proposed mission was, by this means, removed, there remained sufficient subject of discussion between the two governments of Bengal and Nepaul, to make that measure still extremely desirable. Accordingly, there was not much difficulty in leading the Nepaul ministers to this point. It would have

been, at least an ungracious return to the friendly disposition recently manifested towards them by the Company's government, if they had rudely sent back the envoy of the latter, after he had, as it were, advanced to their door with their own concurrence, and in the prosecution of their immediate interests.

He, therefore, sometimes after his arrival at Patna, received a sufficiently pressing invitation to proceed to Noakote, where the Rajah of Nepaul at that time held his court; and having obtained the necessary authority for the purpose, from his own government, he proceeded there accordingly.

Colonel Kirkpatrick's mission, which has been well described by himself, in a work published some forty years ago, did not result in any measure of importance beyond strengthening the good understanding subsisting between the Nepaulese and the British, and enabling us to accumulate information regarding the general features, extent and productions of the valley of Nepaul.

In 1795, Run Bahadur came of age. He

forcibly assumed the sceptre and destroyed the influence of his uncle, the Regent. Proving a tyrant, however, he was in his turn expelled the *musnud* (throne); he fled to Benares in the British Indian dominions.

In the interval of his exile, the Bengal government, at the head of which was the late Marquis of Wellesley, established a commercial treaty with the ruling powers, and Captain (afterwards Major) Knox of the Bengal army, who had accompanied Colonel Kirkpatrick and the mission, was sent in 1801, as resident at Khatmandoo. The same jealousy of the object with which the connexion was originally sought being still alive, Major Knox was recalled and the connexion broken off in 1804.

Soon after Major Knox's recall, Run Buhadur left Benares, and was received again with open arms by his subjects of Khatmandoo; but his disposition proved to be incorrigibly tyrannical; his bad propensities had been exasperated rather than chastened by adversity, and by the re-

straints of a residence within the British frontier.

Run Bahadur's first object after his reinstation, was, if possible, to obtain *caste* for the future sovereigns of Nepaul which had been denied him, and his mode of carrying out his purpose was in perfect harmony with his many previous insane and cruel proceedings. He determined upon obtaining a Brahmin wife from the plains of India, and knowing that all hopes of doing so except by force was useless, he employed the latter. His sacrilegious conduct was loudly denounced, and the sequel shewed that the Gods were not favourable to his wishes.

His beautiful, now Brahmin, Queen gave birth to three children and immediately after her last confinement was attacked with small pox. Run Bahadur now became almost frantic; all the hakeems (native doctors) were consulted and large rewards were offered for a perfect recovery.

The doctors at Nepaul were propitiated and

consulted. Sacrifices and daily offerings were made to them. The Ranee getting worse, all became alarmed and the King furious. His ministers and doctors then advised, that, as the holy city of Benares contained many celebrated men, a deputation should immediately be sent there to fetch as many as could be induced to come to Nepaul under promises of large rewards for a cure. These arrived in due time, but all their art was in vain. The small pox had done its work most effectually, and on the Queen's recovery, (she having stipulated the King should neither see nor visit her until she was well), she requested her attendants to furnish her with a looking-glass. When she beheld for the first time the dreadful ravages made on her once beautiful face, she became disconsolate, and dismissing her attendants poisoned herself. The vegetable poisons of Nepaul are quick and deadly, and to this day no antidote has been found for them. Upon hearing of her death, Run Bahadur rushed into her apartment, and beholding his once

lovely Queen a corpse, and dreadfully spotted with the small pox he became frantic. He cursed his kingdom, her doctors, and the Gods of Nepaul, vowing vengeance on all. He first sent for the unfortunate Benares doctors, denounced them as liars and impostors, and ordered them to be soundly flogged, and each to have his right ear and nose cut off in his presence. This was duly performed, and they were afterwards started to the British dominions as a warning to all future impostors.

He then wreaked his vengeance on the Gods of Nepaul (not even excepting the famous temple at Pas Pat Nath) and after abusing them in the most gross way, he accused them of having obtained from him twelve thousand goats, sone hundred weight of sweetmeats, two thousand gallons of milk, &c., under false pretences, and that he would take summary vengeance for having wilfully disfigured his Queen.

He then ordered all the artillery, varying from 3 to 12-pounders, to be brought in front of the

palace, with all the made-up ammunition at Khatmandoo. All the guns were then loaded to the muzzle, and down he marched to the head-quarters of the Nepaul deities. On arriving at Pas Pat Nath all the guns were drawn up in front of the several deities, honouring the most sacred with the heaviest metal. When the order to fire was given, many of the chiefs and soldiers ran away panic stricken and others hesitated to obey the sacrilegious order; and not until several gunners had been cut down, were the guns opened. Down came the gods and goddesses from their hitherto sacred positions; and after six hours heavy cannonading not a vestige of the deities remained.

Their temples sharing the same fate the priests ran away confounded, many escaping to the British territory, but those who were not so fortunate were seized and each deprived of his holy head. The Goorkha King now became satisfied, vowing, however, no God should ever again be elevated in his dominions until his departed Queen was restored to him.

His life after this, as may be supposed, was a short one. The principal chiefs of his court therefore, who found themselves the objects of his cruel and revengeful persecutions, again formed a conspiracy against the Rajah, which was brought to a desperate issue rather prematurely.

The conspirators having some reason to apprehend that they were betrayed, suddenly resolved to sell their lives as dearly as possible, and one of them, Run Bahadur's half-brother, rushed forward in open Durbar and cut down Run Bahadur, cutting him nearly to the middle by a blow from his Korah (a short but heavy weapon of a half-moon shape, the edge of which is on the inner side like that of a scythe), as he sat in full Durbar in 1805. A barbarous affray followed, in which the fratricide himself was slain with most of the chiefs, and the royal family was nearly exterminated.

An infant son of Run Bahadur's was, however, with difficulty secreted in the women's apartments, and thus saved from the

massacre by Bheem Sen Thappa, who proclaimed him a few days after, by the name of Koorman, Jodh, Beckrum Sah, and who by his influence with the Regent-mother succeeded in introducing himself to a large share in the government.

CHAPTER VIII.

WARLIKE PRELIMINARIES.

BHEEM SAH was a man of warlike propensities and of considerable ability. Under his regency the passion of the Goorkhas for territorial aggrandisement received an impetus. He carried the tide of conquest westward as far as the Sutlej, subduing the hill rajahs whose lands and authority intervened. Simultaneously with his operations in the west, encroachment was countenanced to the eastward on the territories subject to the British Government. Along the whole of the border, from the frontier of Tirhoot to that of the

districts between the Sutlej and the Jumna, the agressive conduct of the officers in the employ of the Nepaul Government had given repeated occasion for remonstrance and representations. Sometimes the Court of Khatmandoo marked its apparent dissatisfaction with their proceedings by removing or suspending the officers; at other times it justified and upheld their conduct on the plea that they were directed to the re-occupation of tracts which had originally belonged to Nepaul, or to chiefs whom the Goorkhas had subdued, and to whose possessions they had the right which conquest confers. In 1807 outrages were committed on the frontier of Pooneah; remonstrances were addressed to the Nepaulese Government; but as no satisfaction was obtained, a military force was employed in 1809 to expel the Goorkhas from the disputed lands. Subsequently to this, claims were advanced by the Nepaulese to certain lands included within the limits of the British provinces of Sarun and Goruckpore. These lands were the district of Sheoraj and the

province of Bhotwal, the whole of which were in the hands of a tributary Rajah whom the Goorkha Government deemed it politic to consider had forfeited his possessions because of his share in the conspiracy, which had terminated in the murder of Run Bahadur. After several protracted negotiations with successive governments, it was proposed to the Nepaulese that they should retain Sheoraj and withdraw from Bhotwal, but they persevered in declining to listen to any compromise, and had actually sent troops to occupy a part of the latter country.

During the tedious and unfriendly discussions carried on with reference to these lands, similar aggressions supported by similar pretensions were committed in the British territory of Sarun lying to the east of Goruckpore, and, like it, contiguous on its northern division, which constituted the district of Bettia, to the hills throughout the state of Muckwanpore. Between the Rajah of Betteah and the Rajah of Muckwanpore border disputes had

always subsisted. The Goorkhas taking the part of the latter, and seizing upon part of the Betteah lands, the Betteah Rajah appealed to the British for assistance and the expedition under Major Kinloch, to which reference has already been made, was the result. We thus became possessors of Muckwanpore. What followed is so essential to a right understanding of the course of the war with the Goorkhas in 1814, that it will be better to give the narrative in the words of Professor Wilson,* who has drawn his summary from the Papers regarding the Nepaul War, printed by the East India Company.

"In 1767 a military force under Major Kinloch drove the Goorkhas out of the province, and, following them into the hills, took possession of Muckwanpore. When a good understanding with the Court of Khatmandoo was restored, Mr. Hastings gave up that part

* Mill's "History of India," continued by H. H. Wilson, Bodleian Professor of Sanscrit in the University of Oxford.

of Muckwanpore which was situated in the hills, but retained the lowlands on the Betteah frontier as a compensation for the cost of the military expedition which the Bengal Government had been compelled in self-defence to undertake. From that period the conquered tract had formed a portion of the Betteah Zemindari and had paid revenue to the British government without any question of its right having been agitated by Nepaul.

"In 1811, however, emboldened by the obvious reluctance of the government of Bengal to engage in hostilities—a reluctance which, agreeably to the maxims of Goorkha policy, could only be accounted for by conscious weakness—the Nepaulese advanced a claim to the division of Nanori in Betteah; and the Goorkha Governor of the adjacent hill district crossed the border with an armed force, burnt and plundered numerous villages, levied contributions on several, and called upon others, to the number of twenty-two in the aggregate, to acknowledge allegiance to his government.

His incursion provoked resistance; the people of the country took up arms, and, as the Goorkha party was weak, defeated and expelled them. Their leader was killed in the affray. A stronger force was immediately dispatched from Nepaul, against which no adequate means of resistance were at hand; and the whole of the lands originally separated from Muckwanpore were forcibly re-occupied by the Goorkhas, without their condescending to give previous intimation of their pretensions or their purposes.* After

* Besides the districts more particularly specified in the text, various encroachments had occurred almost throughout the whole of the border, from the Tista to the Sutlej. In Tirhoot, between 1787 and 1812, more than two hundred villages had, at different times, been appropriated by the Nepaulese. In Bareilly they had occupied five out of eight divisions of the Pergunna of Khyrapur. They claimed an extensive tract in the Zilla of Moradabad; and in 1813 they attempted to occupy several villages in the territory of the protected Sikh chiefs, but were prevented by the interference of the British Political Agent.—*Nepaul Papers, printed for the Court of Proprietors. Narrative of the War, by the Marquis of Hastings,* 677.

long and protracted discussions, the right of the British government to the disputed lands on the frontier of Goruckpore was established by documentary evidence, to rebut which no satisfactory testimony was brought forward by the Commissioners from Nepaul. They nevertheless declined to recognise the claim of the British, or to direct the removal of the Goorkha officers from the usurped districts without authority from Khatmandoo, to which they required to refer. A suggestion was, however, made to Major Bradshaw, that the Rajah of Nepaul should cede the disputed lands in exchange for a tract six miles broad, along the skirts of the hills, to be given up by the British government. To this compromise Lord Minto refused his concurrence; he considered the proposal to be equivalent to an admission that the right of his government to Sheoraj and Bhotwal was substantiated, as was truly the case, and that the Court of Nepaul was not entitled to any compensation for the abandonment of unjust and violent usurpations. He regarded the proposition as also evasive and

temporising, and as unlikely, even if acquiesced in, to put a stop to the unfounded claims of the Goorkha government. He consequently insisted on the unqualified restoration of the usurped territory; and as the commissioners pleaded want of powers, he addressed a letter to the Rajah, reminding him of his promise to abide by the result of the inquiry, and calling upon him to fulfil his promise by ordering his officers to retire from the disputed districts, expressing his earnest wish to remain upon terms of amity with the Nepaul state, but declaring his intention of occupying the lands in question by force if they were not peaceably resigned. Military preparations were set on foot for carrying the menace into effect when the season should permit, as little expectation was entertained that the Court of Khatmandoo would be induced by conciliatory representations to recede from its pretensions. Before a definitive answer was received from the Rajah, the Earl of Moira had succeeded to the government of India."

When the aggressions on the Sarun frontier were committed, strong remonstrances were addressed to the Court of Khatmandoo, and a demand was made that the lands which had been seized should be immediately restored. It was conceded, however, that the right to them should nevertheless be investigated by the magistrate of Sarun and the officers of Nepaul; and it was promised, that, if the Goorkha claim to any of the villages should be made good, they should be restored.

An investigation accordingly took place, the result of which was to disprove the Goorkha pretensions;* but a final decision was not

* A different story is, however, told by the government of Nepaul. In their instructions to an accredited agent who was to have been dispatched to Calcutta, and which document fell into the hands of Lieutenant-Colonel Bradshaw, they accuse Bir Kishore Sing (the Rajah of Betteah) of having originated the encroachments, taken possession of a large portion of land, and committed an atrocious murder in the Nepaul territories, (referring to the death of the Goorkha officer mentioned in the text). The Rajah proceeds: "You will state

insisted on until the commissioners in Goruckpore should be able to extend their inquiries to Sarun. It appeared, however, to the new Governor-General that the question of right had been so unequivocally decided by the previous proceedings, that it needed no further deliberation; and Lieutenant-Colonel Bradshaw was authorised to proceed to the spot in company with the Goorkha Commissioners, for the purpose only of adjusting any minor points which might

that, in consequence of a letter which I received from Mr. Hawkins, of Patna, assuring me that Bir Kishore Sing would be punished by the British government, I did not punish him as I should otherwise have done; I, however, recovered possession of the twenty-two villages which he had seized. Mr. Young was afterwards sent to investigate the question respecting these villages. By his inquiries the right of this Government, and aggression of the Zumindar of Bettia, were fully established; the Betteah man could produce no documents whatever in support of his claim. Mr. Young has probably reported this to government. You will state these observations in a proper manner."—*Nepaul Papers*, 383.

remain to be set at rest. The villages had in the meantime been conditionally evacuated by the Nepaulese. Their own Commissioners disapproved of the temporary transfer; and, making their disapproval a plea for closing the conference, refused to hold any further communication with the British representative, and returned abruptly to Nepaul.*

It was evident, from the conduct of the Goorkha Commissioners, that the Court of Khatmandoo had no serious intention to concur in

* The abrupt departure of the Commissioners is referred by Mr. Prinsep to the receipt, by the Rajah of Nepaul, of the letter of the Governor-General, declaring his resolution to occupy the disputed lands by force, if not given up within a specified period. According to the document last quoted, it arose from personal dissatisfaction with the British Commissioner. "They had an interview with the Major, who made use of improper language towards them; in consequence of which they remained silent, and seeing no business brought forward, they came away."—*Nepaul Papers*, 384. (The state papers of Nepaul appear to be no more veracious than those of more civilized nations.)

any amicable settlement; but unwilling to precipitate a quarrel, the Governor-General renewed in an address to the Rajah the remonstrances and arguments that had been hitherto urged in vain, requiring him to acquiesce in the conclusion which had been established by the conferences of the Commissioners both in Goruckpore and Sarun, and to accede to the peaceable occupation of the lands by the civil officers of the British government. A refusal to acknowledge the Company's rights was, after some delay, received. No alternative, therefore, remained but the relinquishment of the claims which had been substantiated, or their resolute vindication.

The latter was adopted. The villages on the Sarun frontier were retained, and a detachment was sent into Bhotwal and Sheoraj before which the Nepaulese authorities retired without attempting to offer any resistance.* The

* These details are taken chiefly from the Narrative of the War, by the Marquis of Hastings.—*Nepaul Papers*, 673. The opinions of the council, as commu-

promptitude and decision which characterized the measures of the British government convinced the Court of Khatmandoo that the crisis which it must have contemplated had now arrived, and that disputes respecting border lands had terminated in the alternative of peace or war. The question was deliberately considered in a council of the principal chiefs, and a

nicated to the Rajah of Palpah, fell into the hands of the English, and were printed by Mr. Prinsep. The Rajah proposes war, and is seconded by Bhim Sen Thapa, the Regent. The strength of the country, and military power and reputation of Nepaul, are the chief topics of reliance. On the other hand, some fear is expressed of the defection of the hill Rajahs, by which an opening into the mountains may be afforded to the enemy; and some of the chiefs do not hesitate to declare their opinion of the superiority of the British forces. We have hitherto, say they, but hunted deer; if we engage in this war, we must prepare to fight tigers. It is clear that the war was disapproved of by the most judicious of the Rajah's advisers, and that it originated chiefly in the presumption and ignorance of the Regent.—*Prinsep's Transactions in India,* 8vo. ed. Vol. I. App. 457.

summary of their opinions was transmitted to the military governors of the frontier. In deference to the sentiments of the Rajah, or rather of the Regent-minister, who advocated hostilities, the conclusion of the council was for war; but several of the chiefs entertained sounder views of its probable consequences, urged perseverance in the course of policy hitherto pursued, and recommended, if unavoidable, the ultimate concession of the disputed territory below the hills. To these prudent recommendations were opposed the uniform success which had hitherto attended the arms of Nepaul, the powerful military force of the principality, and the natural strength of the country, which constituted an impregnable barrier against an English invasion. The small fort of Bhurtpore, argued the minister, was the work of man, yet the British were defeated in their attempts against it. How little then, was it likely that they should storm the mountain fastnesses constructed by the hand of God! The determination, however unwise, indicated a lofty and patriotic spirit; but the

mode in which it was announced was characteristic of a barbarous court.

The approach of the rainy season and the unhealthiness of the country at that period, as well as the seeming acquiescence of the Nepaulese in the occupation of the disputed lands, induced the government to withdraw the troops, leaving a civil force of armed police at the frontier thanas or stations of Bhotwal and Sheoraj. On the morning of the 29th May, a party of Goorkhas, under the command of the late governor of the district, attacked the post at Bhotwal. The police were overpowered, eighteen men were killed, and the head officer, or Kaunadar, who surrendered himself, was tied to a tree and killed with arrows. The stations of Sheoraj were abandoned by the police, but not until one had been surprised and several lives had been lost. The lands were immediately taken possession of by the Goorkhas.

Although this outrage demanded instant punishment, the season of the year delayed

its infliction, and an opportunity was afforded to the Rajah of disavowing the perpetrators of the offence. A letter from the Governor-General required him to fulfil the obligation, but it received an evasive and menacing reply. Hostilities were therefore evidently unavoidable; and, after an interval diligently devoted to preliminary arrangements, and the collection of information regarding a country but little known, war with Nepaul was announced, in a manifesto detailing its causes and vindicating its necessity.

DECLARATION.

The British government having been compelled to take up arms against the Nepaulese, his Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor-General has judged it proper to make known to the Powers in alliance and friendship with the Honourable Company, the origin and progress of the transactions which have ter-

minated in this crisis; in the full conviction that the exposition will establish beyond dispute the extraordinary moderation and forbearance of the British government, and the injustice, violence and aggression of the state of Nepaul.

The course of the Goorkha conquests having approximated their frontier to that of the Honourable Company, and of its ally the Nawaub Vizier, and the protected Sikh chieftains, throughout an extent of country stretching from the eastern border of Morung to the banks of the Sutlej, it was scarcely to be expected that differences should not occasionally arise between the inhabitants of the contiguous districts belonging to the two states, and even among the local public officers of each government; but a just and firm line of conduct on the part of the two governments, combined with a sincere disposition to maintain uninterrupted the relations of amity, and to respect the rights of each other, could not have failed to arrest the progress of those unhappy disputes which have terminated in war.

While the conduct of the British government has been uniformly regulated in its relations with the Nepaulese, by the most scrupulous adherence to the principles of justice and moderation, there is scarcely a single district within the British frontier, throughout the whole of the extensive line above described, in which the Goorkhas have not usurped and appropriated lands forming the ascertained dominions of the Honourable Company.

Questions originating in the usurpations of the Nepaulese have arisen in Purnea, Tirhoot, Sarun, Goruckpore, and Bareilly, as well as in the protected territory between the Sutlej and the Jumna; and each case might be appealed to in proof of the moderation and forbearance of the British government and the aggressive and insolent spirit of the Nepaulese. It will be enough, however, to advert in detail to two instances only; namely, those which occurred in Sarun and in Goruckpore, which more particularly demonstrate the systematic design of the Nepaulese to encroach on the acknowledged

possessions of the Honourable Company; and have, in fact, been the proximate causes of the war.

In the former district, they have at different times established their authority over the territory of Betteah; but the British government, abiding by those principles of moderation and forbearance so conspicuous in all its transactions with the Nepaulese, contented itself for a considerable period with remonstrances and representations, trusting that the justice of its cause would become apparent to the Nepaulese government, and produce its proper effect on the mind of the Rajah and his ministers. The repeated complaints of its subjects, and the occurrence of a new instance of encroachment in the Tuppah of Nunnore, forming a portion of Betteah, which led to an affray in which Subah Luchingir, an officer of the Nepaulese government, was slain, at last induced the British government to depute one of its civil officers to the spot, where he was met by deputies from the state of Nepaul;

in concert with whom proceedings were held, and evidence taken, for the purpose of ascertaining the claims of the parties. The result left no doubt of the right of the British government, and of the unjust and violent procedure of the Nepaulese.

A more striking proof of the spirit of rapacity and unjust aggression by which the Nepaulese were actuated cannot be adduced than the fact, that, after having agreed to the investigation referred to above, and after the actual deputation of officers by each government, the Nepaulese suddenly seized an additional tract of country belonging to the Company, at a very short distance from the scene of their former aggressions.

This violent and unjust procedure would have warranted an immediate demand for restitution, or even the actual re-occupation of the lands by force; and it may now be a subject of regret to the British government that this course was not pursued. Far, however, from resenting or punishing this daring

outrage as it deserved, the British government resolved to persevere in the amicable course which it had pursued in other cases, and permitted Mr. Young, the gentleman deputed to meet the Nepaulese Commissioners, to extend his inquiries to the lands newly seized, as above stated, as well as to those which formed the original object of his deputation.

The pretext by which the Nepaulese attempted to justify their occupation of the lands in Nunnore, which consisted of no less than twenty-two villages, was, that they were included in the Tuppah of Rotehut, forming a division of Purgunnah Sunnown; which Tuppah was restored to the Nepaulese in the year 1783, with the rest of the Terraiee of Muckwanpore, which had been conquered by the British arms under Major Kinloch. The utter groundlessness of this pretext was proved by the evidence taken by Mr. Young, which clearly established that the disputed lands were situated in the Tuppah of Nunnore, a portion of Purgunnah

Simruwun, which had been reserved by the Company at the time of the restitution of Rotchut, and the remainder of Muckwanpore. But had it been otherwise, the tacit acquiescence by the Nepaulese in our possession of those lands for a period of thirty years would have amounted to a dereliction of their claim, however well founded it might originally have been.

The abrupt and violent manner in which the Nepaulese have invariably possessed themselves of those portions of the Honourable Company's territory to which they have at any time pretended a right, will not allow the supposition that they would have refrained during so long a period from doing themselves justice in the present case, if they had felt conscious of the validity of the claim. It is evident, from the whole tenor of their proceedings, that they acted on that premeditated system of gradual encroachment, which, owing to the unexampled forbearance and moderation of the British government, they had already

found to be successful; and that the assertion of the twenty-two villages having been included in the Tuppah of Rotehut, was merely brought forward to give colour to the unwarrantable act which they had committed, when it became necessary to assign a reason for their conduct.

The Nepaulese have attempted to fix on the subjects of the Honourable Company the guilt of the murder of Subah Luchingir, and have stated, as matter of complaint against the British government, that the Rajah of Betteah and his followers have not been punished for that act; and they have endeavoured to found on this charge a justification of their own subsequent proceedings. It has been ascertained, however, by incontestable evidence, that Luchingir had, previously to the occurrence of the affray in which he died, possessed himself of some villages in Betteah, and was preparing to extend his encroachments. Whatever degree of culpability, therefore, may attach to the subjects of the Honourable Company

for forcibly opposing his proceedings, their offence was towards their own government alone; and the Nepaulese could not, with any colour of justice, demand the punishment of those persons for an act produced solely by misconduct of their own officers, or charge the British government with a culpable omission of what would have been, under different circumstances, due to a state professedly on friendly terms with it; still less can they found on this transaction any justification of their own conduct in other instances.

As the final resolution of the British government with respect to the usurped lands in Betteah, was in part influenced by the conduct of the Nepaulese, relative to the disputed territory of Bhotwal and Sheoraj in Goruckpore, it will be proper to advert to the circumstances of that transaction in this place.

It is notorious, and has also been proved by reference to authentic records, and by the unimpeached testimony of living witnesses, that the whole of Bhotwal, to the very foot of

the hills, with the exception of the town of Bhotwal alone, was held by the Rajahs of Palpah, from the Nawaub Vizier, for a considerable period antecedent to the treaty of cession in 1801; and that it was transferred to the Company by the terms of that treaty, being specifically included in the schedule thereunto annexed. It is no less matter of notoriety, that the district of Bhotwal actually came into the possession of the British government by virtue of the cession; and that a settlement was made by the collector of Goruckpore with the agent of the late Rajah of Palpah, at that time a prisoner at Khatmandoo, for an annual rent of thirty-two thousand rupees, without the semblance of an objection on the part of the Rajah of Nepaul. So it remained until the year 1804, when the Nepaulese commenced that system of gradual encroachment below the hills, which terminated in their occupation of nearly the whole district of Bhotwal. The Tuppah of Sheoraj was occupied by the Nepaulese ante-

cedently to the cession; but it is no less certain that it was a part of the territory of the Vizier, and, together with the rest of the lowlands skirting the hills in the district of Goruckpore, included in the cession.

The Nepaulese pretended to found their claim to Bhotwal and Sheoraj, and to the other portions of the lands below the hills, on the circumstance of their having formed the Terraiee, or lowlands, of the hill-countries of Palpah, Goolmee, Pentaneh, Kamchee, &c., which the Nepaulese have conquered. Admitting that the lowlands were possessed by the chiefs of the neighbouring hill principalities, the admission does not affect the question; since it is perfectly ascertained, that, for a considerable period before the Goorkha conquest, they formed a part of the dominions of Oude; and the conquest, therefore, of the independent hill principalities cannot give to the conquering power any just claim to other lands, which, though in the occupation of the

same chiefs, were held on dependent tenures from another state.

To show the little confidence that the Nepaulese had in their claim of sovereignty over these lands, it is sufficient to observe, that, soon after their usurpation of them, they actually made an offer to hold Bhotwal in farm from the British government, on the same terms as the Rajah of Palpah; a proposition to which this government did not think proper to accede.

The system of gradual, and at times almost imperceptible, encroachment pursued by the Nepaulese, was calculated to deceive the British government with respect to their ultimate views, and, combined with the just and moderate course of proceedings which the British government has pursued in all its intercourse with the Nepaulese, prevented it from resorting to those means which would at once have repressed the outrage of the Nepaulese, and re-established its own authority

in the usurped lands. The remonstrances and discussions which followed the first usurpation of the Nepaulese in this quarter, continued with frequent interruption for a period of some years, during which the Nepaulese continued to avail themselves of every favourable occasion of extending their encroachments. At length, a proposition was made by the Rajah of Nepaul, that commissioners should be appointed to meet on the spot, and investigate and decide the respective claims of the parties, under the express condition that, whatever might be the issue of the inquiry, both governments would abide by it. Notwithstanding its perfect conviction of the justice of its own claims, the British government did not hesitate to submit to the delay and expense necessarily attending the proposed investigation, confiding in the ultimate, though tardy, admission of its rights by the Nepaulese, and anxious to afford an unequivocal proof of the moderation of its conduct, and the justice of its cause. The proposition of the Rajah of Nepaul was accord-

ingly acceded to; and Major Bradshaw was directed to proceed to Bhotwal, and enter on the investigation in concert with commissioners to be appointed by the Nepaulese government.

The commissioners of the two governments met, and, after much delay and procrastination on the part of the Nepaulese agents, the proceedings were brought to a close, and the right of the British government to the whole of the lowlands, confirmed by the most irrefragable proofs, both oral and documentary.

The Nepaulese commissioners, unable to resist the force of this evidence, and clearly restrained by the orders of their court from admitting the right of the British government, pretended that they were not authorized to come to a decision, and referred the case to the Rajah's government for orders.

The advanced period of the season when the commissioners closed their proceedings, rendered it impracticable to take any steps founded on them, until the ensuing year. The

immediate procedure of the British government was, therefore, confined to a communication to the Rajah, stating in general terms, the conclusions necessarily resulting from the proceedings of the commissioners, and requiring the Rajah to give up the lands according to the condition on which the investigation was acceded to, on the grounds of the conclusive proof of its right, established by those proceedings. To this just and fair demand, the Rajah of Nepaul replied by repeating all those arguments in favour of its own claim, which had been entirely overthrown by the evidence adduced to the commissioners, and refused to restore the lands. In this state the affairs necessarily remained until the ensuing season, 1813-14.

In the meanwhile, Major Bradshaw proceeded, as soon as the state of the country admitted of his marching, to the frontier of Betteah, where he was to be met by commissioners from Nepaul, empowered to adjust in concert with him the depending claims in

that quarter; no practical measures having yet resulted from the inquiry conducted by Mr. Young.

Major Bradshaw, soon after his arrival, renewed a demand which had been made by the British government, but not enforced at the time, for the restoration of the twenty-two villages of Nunnore, previously to any examination of the question of right. This demand was acceded to by the Nepaulese, and the villages were re-occupied by the officers of the Honourable Company, subject to the ultimate disposal of them, according to the issue of the intended inquiry.

The refusal of the Nepaulese government to abide by the result of an inquiry sought by itself in the case of the encroachments in Goruckpore, notwithstanding the full and complete establishment of the rights of the British government to the disputed lands in that quarter, now led the Governor-General in Council to pause before he consented to incur the loss, inconvenience, and anxiety

attendant on a new investigation of the claims of the respective governments to the usurped lands in Sarun. On duly reflecting on all that had passed—on the actual proof of the claim of the British government, established by Mr. Young's inquiry, conducted in concert with the Nepaulese commissioners, an inquiry which embraced the testimony on oath of all those persons who could be supposed to possess the best local knowledge; and which had, moreover, this advantage over every subsequent investigation, that it was held at a period so much nearer to the time of the transaction; and on the presumptive proof of our right, arising out of the fact acknowledged by the Nepaulese themselves, of our uninterrupted possession during thirty years—the mind of the Governor-General in Council was perfectly satisfied that a further investigation *de novo* would be an unprofitable waste of time, and that the utmost that the Nepaulese government could in fairness expect, was, that the commissioners of both governments should meet

for the purpose of discussing the question on the basis of the investigation actually closed, and of supplying any defects which might be discovered in that investigation by further inquiry on the spot.

When the result of the deliberations of the Governor-General in Council was notified to the Nepaulese commissioners by Major Bradshaw, with an officer to meet them for the purpose stated, and to produce documents which he had obtained, confirming the correctness of the conclusions drawn from the evidence formerly taken, the commissioners declared that they would not meet him, nor hold any communication with him; and, revoking the conditional transfer of the usurped lands, demanded that Major Bradshaw should instantly leave the frontier. They immediately afterwards returned to Nepaul.

This insulting and unprovoked declaration could be referred to no other cause, than a previous determination not to fulfil the obligations of justice towards the British govern-

ment, and left to it no course, but to do itself that right which was refused by the government of Nepaul. Acting on this principle, the Governor-General addressed a letter to the Rajah of Nepaul, reviewing the conduct of his commissioners, and claiming the full renunciation of the disputed lands; adding, that if it were not made within a given time, the portions of these lands still in the hands of the Nepaulese would be re-occupied, and the twenty-two villages which had been conditionally transferred to the British government declared to be finally re-annexed to the dominions of the Honourable Company. This demand not having been complied with, the resumption of the lands was carried into effect, and the authority of the British government re-established throughout the tract in dispute.

While these occurrences were passing in Sarun, the British government, perceiving from the tenor of the whole conduct of the state of Nepaul, and from the answer to its

demand for the restitution of Bhotwal and Sheoraj, that no intention existed on the part of the Rajah to restore those lands, was compelled to prepare to take possession of them by force, if that necessity should arise. Previously, however, to ordering the troops to advance into the disputed territory, the Governor-General in Council made one more effort to induce the Rajah to restore them, by renewing the demand, founded on the result of the investigation, and declared at the same time that if the orders of surrender were not received within a limited time (which was specified) the British troops would proceed to occupy the lands. The specified period having expired without the adoption of any measure on the part of the Nepaulese government towards a compliance with the just requisition of the British government, the troops were ordered to march; and the Nepaulese forces and the public officers of that government retiring on the advance of the British troops, the civil officers of the Honourable Company

were enabled to establish their authority in the disputed lands.

The commencement of the rainy season shortly rendered it necessary to withdraw the regular troops, in order that they might not be exposed to the periodical fevers which reign throughout the tract in that part of the year. The defence of the recovered lands was of course unavoidably intrusted to the police establishments. The apparent acquiescence, however, of the Nepaulese, in what had taken place, left no room for apprehension; especially as no real violence had been used in obliging the Nepaulese to retire from the district. On the morning of the 29th of May last, the principal police station in Bhotwal was attacked by a large body of the Nepaulese troops, headed by an officer of that government, named Munraj Foujdar, and driven out of Bhotwal, with the loss of eighteen men killed and six wounded. Among the former was the Darogah, or principal police officer, who was murdered in cold blood, with circumstances of peculiar barbarity,

in the presence of Munraj Foujdar, after surrendering himself a prisoner. Another police tannah was subsequently attacked by the Nepaulese troops, and driven out, with the loss of several persons killed and wounded. In consequence of the impracticability of supporting the police tannahs by sending troops into the country at that unhealthy season, it became necessary to withdraw them; and the Nepaulese were thus enabled to re-occupy the whole of the disputed territory, which they have since retained. The British government had not ceased to hope that an amicable adjustment of its differences with the state of Nepaul might still be accomplished, when the perpetration of this sanguinary and atrocious outrage, by which the state of Nepaul at once placed itself in the condition of a public enemy of the British government, put an end to the possibility of any accommodation, except on the basis of unqualified submission and atonement.

Still the Governor-General would not proceed to actual hostilities, without giving to the

Rajah of Nepaul one other opening for avoiding so serious an issue. Therefore his Excellency wrote to the Rajah of Nepaul, to apprise him of what must be the consequence of the insolent outrage which had taken place, unless the government of Nepaul should exonerate itself from the act, by disavowal, and punishment of the perpetrators. This letter received an answer wholly evasive, and even implying menace.

The requisite submission and atonement having thus been withheld, the British government had no choice left but an appeal to arms, in order to avenge its innocent subjects, and vindicate its insulted dignity and honour. The unfavourable season of the year alone prevented it from having instant recourse to the measures necessary for chastising the insolence, violence, and barbarity of the Nepaulese, whose whole conduct, not only in the particular cases above detailed, but in every part of their proceedings towards the British government, for a series of years, has been marked by an entire disregard of the principles

of honour, justice, and good faith, aggravated by the most flagrant insolence, presumption, and audacity, and has manifested the existence of a long-determined resolution on the part of the court of Khatmandoo, to reject all the just demands of the British government, and to refer the decision of the questions depending between the two states to the issue of a war.

Ever since the murder of the police officers in Bhotwal, and during the unavoidable interval of inaction which followed, the Nepaulese, with a baseness and barbarity peculiar to themselves, have endeavoured to destroy the troops and the subjects of the Company on the frontier of Sarun, by poisoning the water of the wells and tanks in a tract of considerable extent. The fortunate discovery of this attempt baffled the infamous design, and placed incontrovertible proof of it in the hands of the British government.

The impediment to military operations, arising from the season of the year, is now removed, and the British government is prepared, by the

active and vigorous employment of its resources, to compel the state of Nepaul to make that atonement which it is so justly entitled to demand. The British government has long borne the conduct of the Nepaulese with unexampled patience, opposing to their violence, insolence, and rapacity, a course of procedure uniformly just and moderate. But forbearance and moderation must have their limits; and the British government having been compelled to take up arms in defence of its rights, its interests, and its honour, will never lay them down until its enemy shall be forced to make ample submission and atonement for his outrageous conduct, to indemnify it for the expense of the war, and to afford full security for the future maintenance of those relations which he has so shamefully violated.

If the misguided councils of the state of Nepaul shall lead it obstinately to persist in rejecting these just demands, it will itself be responsible for the consequences. The British government has studiously endeavoured,

by every effort of conciliation, to avert the extremity of war, but it can have no apprehension of the result; and it relies with confidence on the justice of its cause, and on the skill, discipline, and valour of its armies, for a speedy, honourable, and decisive termination of the contest in which it is engaged.

By command of his Excellency the Governor-General.

(Signed) J. ADAM,
Secretary to Government.

Lucknow,
Nov. 1, 1814.

War having been resolved upon, it became necessary to determine the principles upon which it should be carried on; whether a defensive or offensive system should be adopted, and in either case what course should be pursued. The former was open to weighty objections. It was clearly impossible adequately to guard a line of open frontier, extending seven hundred miles, at every assailable point; and the Nepaulese would have it in

their power to inflict injury and loss upon their enemy with little hazard of suffering retaliation.

To maintain large bodies of troops in the field would be attended with the same expense, in whatever manner they might be employed; and the cost was likely to be heaviest in the end, if their inactivity was productive of a tedious and harassing prolongation of hostilities. It was also obviously advisable, not merely to defend the British territory against actual aggression, but to deprive the Goorkha government of the means of repeating their incursions by contracting the limits of their possessions, reducing their power, and humbling their ambition. The defensive system was therefore discarded, and it only remained to determine the plan of offensive operations; an advance to Khatmandoo with a concentrated force, or a simultaneous attack on different points of the long line of Goorkha conquests, throughout which the recently subjugated people and chiefs were ready to fall off from their oppressive

rulers, and welcome and facilitate the approach of the British troops.

To this political advantage was to be added the difficulty of moving large bodies of troops in so rugged a country, of providing them with supplies where the soil was so unproductive, and of keeping up a communication with the lowlands, and in consequence of the deadly miasmata which render the forests on the skirts of the hills utterly impassable during a considerable portion of the year. It was therefore determined by Lord Moira to prefer the latter plan, and operating upon the Kali river, which severed the Goorkha possessions nearly in two, as a centre, to direct his first efforts against the western portion, whilst other divisions were to move against the eastern half, and advance into the Valley of Nepaul.*

With these views, four separate divisions

* Lord Moira's Letter to the Chairman, 6th August, 1816.—(*Nepaul Papers*, 994.) The military policy of the Court of Directors differed from that of his Lordship. In their estimation, the preservation of British

were formed which were to ascend the hills at as many places, as soon as the rains had sufficiently subsided to allow of their forward movement. The first of the divisions, comprising about six thousand men under the command of Major-General Ochterlony, was destined to attack the Goorkha positions at the western extremity of their line. The second, three

honour and the integrity of the territories might have been secured "by the employment of one concentrated body of troops;" meaning, apparently in this place, their employment on the defensive. In a subsequent paragraph they advocate a similar mode of conducting offensive operations. "We are inclined to the opinion, from the nature of the resistance opposed by the enemy, that if, instead of dividing our force into so many detachments, a concentrated attack had been made, it might possibly have been the means of bringing the war to a successful conclusion, without looking to the issue of a second campaign." Political Letter to Bengal, 13th October, 1815. At a later date, the Court profess their acknowledgment of the "wisdom of the plan on which Lord Moira had acted." Political Letter to Bengal, 5th March, 1817.—*Ibid.* 998.

thousand five hundred strong, commanded by Major-General Gillespie, was intended to occupy the Dehra Dun, a valley above the first range of hills, and besiege Jytak, the principal fortress of the enemy in the province of Goolwal. The third division, of about four thousand five hundred troops, was placed under the orders of Major-General John Sullivan Wood, and was to march from the Goruckpore frontier through the long-disputed districts of Bhotwal and Sheoraj to Palpah. The fourth, and most considerable division, comprehending nearly eight thousand men, commanded by Major-General Marley, was to make the most effectual impression on the enemy, and was to march through Muckwanpore directly to Khatmandoo. Arrangements were made at the same time for the defence of the interjacent parts of the British frontier by local corps; and at the south-eastern end of the line east of the Kasi river, Captain Latter, commanding the Rungpore local battalion and a battalion of Regular

Native Infantry, was directed to convert a defensive into an offensive attitude, should circumstances be favourable to the change.

The whole force amounted to more than thirty thousand men, with sixty guns.* To

* The details of the several divisions were as follows:

1st Division, Artillery, European and Native	950	
Native Infantry (2nd battalion 1st, 2nd battalion 6th, 2nd battalion 3rd, 1st battalion 19th, and six companies of the 2nd battalion 19th)	4778	
Pioneers	265	
Ordnance, two 18-pounders, ten 6-pounders, four mortars and howitzers.		
		5993
2nd Division, Artillery	247	
H.M. 53rd Regiment	785	
Native Infantry (1st battalion 6th, 1st battalion 17th, 1st battalion 7th)	2348	
Pioneers	133	
Ordnance, two 12-pounders, eight 6-pounders, four howitzers.		
		3513

[3rd Div.

oppose so formidable an armament, the Goorkhas in the beginning of the war could not muster more than twelve thousand regular troops, which were scattered along the intended

3rd Division, 8th Native Cavalry . . .	114
Artillery	457
H.M. 17th Regiment	958
Native Infantry (left wings of both battalions of the 14th, 2nd, battalion 17th, four companies 2nd battalion, 8th and 2nd battalion 12th)	2875
Pioneers	90
Ordnance, four 6-pounders, three 3-pounders, four mortars and howitzers.	
	——4494

4th Division, Artillery	868
H.M. 24th Regiment	907
Native Infantry (1st battalion 18th, left wing 2nd battalion 22nd, 2nd battalion 15th, 2nd battalion 25th, Ramgorh local battalion, Champarau Light Infantry	5988

[Pioneers.

length of their frontier. They were augmented during the war by levies of local militia; but these were without discipline, imperfectly equipped, and were not always well-affected to their rulers, as they were often raised from the subjects of the conquered hill-states. A few forts, strongly situated, but in other respects of little importance, commanded the principal passes of the mountains. The main strength of the Goorkhas consisted in the spirit of the government, the bravery and devotedness of the regular troops, the impracticability of the country,

Pioneers	276
Ordnance, four 18-pounders, four 6-pounders, four 3-pounders, 12 mortars and howitzers	7989
Total sixty-eight guns and men.	
	21989

Considerable reinforcements joined the two first divisions, besides irregular troops and native contingents, to the extent of above 12,000 men.—*Nepaul Papers*, 719, 432.

the inexperience of their adversaries in mountain warfare, and their ignorance of the ground on which they were to move, and of the character of the people with whom they were to contend.

CHAPTER IX.

THE WAR CONTINUED.

THE third division consisting of three thousand men, under General Gillespie, made the first movement, and commenced active operations with little delay. The General not having joined, the troops moved under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Mawby, of Her Majesty's 53rd foot, from Seharunpore, whereto they had been previously ordered from Meerut, and on the 22nd October cleared the Timbee Pass, through the first range of hills into the Dhoon, and took up a position at Deegrah, the chief town of the valley, about

five miles distant from the foot of Kalunga or Nalapanee.

This fort is situated on an isolated hill, about five or six hundred feet high, covered with jungle, and in most places very steep. The table-land on the top may be about three quarters of a mile in length; and on the southern and highest extremity of the hill was Kalunga built. It was an irregular fortification, following the form of the ground, and at this time was imperfect, the wall not having been fully raised, but they were busily engaged in heightening and strengthening it.

It was commanded by Bhulbudder Sing, nephew of Umur Sing; and he had with him three or four hundred men, chiefly of the regular troops of Nepaul.

A letter was sent to this chief summoning him to surrender the fort. The manner in which he received this summons was rather characteristic, and gave foretaste of the steady coolness with which they defended the place. The note was delivered to him at midnight

and he tore it up, observing that it was not customary to receive or answer letters at such unseasonable hours; but sent his "Salaam" to the English Sirdar, assuring him that he would soon pay him a visit in his camp.

On the next day Colonel Mawby reconnoitered the place, and having carried up two 6-pounders and two howitzers on elephants, made an attempt to carry the fort by assault. After firing a few rounds however, this was declared impracticable, and the party retreated.

General Gillespie now joined and took the command. The place was reconnoitered, and dispositions were immediately made for the assault.

Parties were employed in preparing fascines and gabions for the erection of batteries; and two 12-pounders, four 5½-inch howitzers, and four 6-pounders were carried up the hill on elephants.

The table land was taken without any resistance on the part of the enemy; and batteries for the above-mentioned were ready

to open on the fort on the morning of the 31st of October, at six hundred yards distance.

The storming-party was formed into four columns and a reserve; the first, under Colonel Carpenter, consisted of six hundred and eleven officers and men; the second, under Captain Fast, of three hundred and sixty-three officers and men; the third, under Major Kelly, of five hundred and forty-one officers and men; the fourth, under Captain Campbell, of two hundred and eighty-three officers and men; the reserve, under Major Ludlow, of nine hundred and thirty-eight officers and men. These were so disposed as to ascend at a given signal, (the firing of a gun), from different points, and thus to distract the attention of the enemy from attending too much to any one point.

The enemy had on his side taken what precaution his situation offered him the means of. The well of the fort had been raised, though it was not then quite finished, so as to render it difficult, if not impossible to gain

the top without ladders, even in the lowest part. Every point where the fort was approachable, or thought weak, was covered by stockades, formed of stones and stakes stuck in the ground, a species of fortification in which the Goorkhas are very highly skilled. Guns were placed where they could do execution, and at a wicket left open, but so barred as to render entrance exceedingly difficult, and which covered a great part of the wall, a gun was placed to enfilade the approach with showers of grape. The batteries kept up a warm and well-directed fire upon the foot, but the execution was not equal to expectation, and this, perhaps, uniting with eagerness of sanguine temper, induced General Gillespie to give the signal for the assault some hours sooner than intended, and which, probably from being unexpected, was not heard by either Major Kelly, Captain Campbell, or Captain Fast.

The column under Colonel Carpenter, and the reserve under Major Ludlow, then moved forward to the assault at nine o'clock, and

carried the stockades surrounding the fort, putting to death, or driving in, the small party of the enemy that occupied them. They pushed on to the walls, under a heavy fire from the garrison, and suffered severely in officers and men. The few that reached them called out for ladders, which were not at first to be had. Lieutenant Ellis of the Pioneers, was shot whilst applying the first ladder, himself at the head of the first division, and many were killed and wounded with him. The obstacles were found too great to overcome, so that after long exposure and dreadful loss, the brave troops were compelled to fall back under shelter of a village in the rear.

The General seeing this, and being determined to surmount all difficulties moved on from the batteries with three fresh companies of the 53rd Regiment, and reached a spot within thirty yards of the wicket, where, as he was cheering the men, waving his cap in one hand and his sword in the other, he received a shot in the left breast and fell dead on

the spot. An entrance being found impracticable, Colonel Carpenter, on whom the command devolved after the death of Gillespie, directed our force to retreat. Both columns suffered much from the gun before spoken of as placed in the wicket, when the reserve advanced and got within the line it defended; the first discharge brought down the whole front rank, killing seven and wounding eleven. Several men penetrated to this very wicket but could produce no effect. A very heavy fire was kept up from the walls of the garrison, and showers of arrows and stones were discharged at the assailants, and many severe wounds were received from stones which they threw very dexterously; the women were seen occupied in throwing them, and undauntedly exposing their persons.

Our loss was severe; besides the lamented General, four officers were killed and fifteen wounded, some of whom subsequently died. Twenty-seven non-commissioned officers and men were killed and two hundred and thirteen

wounded. After the repulse, the army lay inactive till the arrival of the battering train from Delhi, which did not take place until the 24th of November, and on the 25th active operations were renewed.

By one o'clock on the 27th the batteries, which had been erected within three hundred yards of the wall, had effected a large and fully practicable breach, and although a warm fire had been kept up by the besieged, we had hardly sustained any loss. Shells had been thrown with great effect, and although the enemy had attempted a sally on the 27th, they were driven back with loss. The commander, Colonel Mawby, satisfied that the breach was practicable, ordered a storm.

The storming-party was composed of the Grenadiers of the detachment, with the Light Company of the 53rd, led by Major Ingleby of that regiment. They advanced to the breach and were exposed for two hours to a tremendous fire from the garrison, which destroyed many officers. Our soldiers advanced to the breach

with perfect self-possession and coolness, a few got to the crest and fell there. The officers exposed themselves most gallantly and unreservedly. Lieutenant Harrington of H.M. 53rd was killed on the breach; Lieutenant Luxford of the Horse Artillery having brought up a gun to the breach to destroy the defences of the enemy within, received a shot through his body, of which he died; and besides these there were many officers wounded. By the official return there were three officers killed, eight wounded; thirty-eight men killed, four hundred and forty wounded and missing—an awful number where the opponents did not equal these alone.

The fire from the batteries recommenced the next day, and shells were again thrown, the effect of which was so dreadful from the unprotected state of the garrison and from the demolished state of the defences, that the few and faint survivors, not exceeding seventy in number, abandoned the place on the night of the 30th, and fighting their way through the

chain of posts placed to intercept them, escaped with the loss of a few men, pursued by Major Ludlow with a party.

At three o'clock that morning Major Kelly entered and took possession of the fort, and there indeed the desperate courage and bloody resistance they had opposed to means so overwhelming, were mournfully and horribly apparent. The whole area of the fort was a slaughter-house strewed with the bodies of the dead and wounded, and the dissevered limbs of those who had been torn to pieces by the bursting of shells! those who yet lived piteously called for water, of which they had not tasted for days. The stench from the place was dreadful; many of the bodies of those who had been killed had been insufficiently interred, and our officers found in the ruins the remains and clothes of several thus incompletely covered starting into view.

The bodies of several women killed by shot and shells, and even children mangled by the same ruthless engines, but yet alive, were

discovered. One woman who had lost her leg was found and sent to hospital, where she recovered. A young child was picked up who had been shot by a musket-ball through both thighs, and who also perfectly recovered; and there was also a fine boy of only three or four years old, whose father, a native officer, had been killed, and who was left in the fort when it was evacuated, he was unhurt and taken care of. The determined resolution of the little party that held this small post for more than a month against comparatively so large a force, must surely claim universal admiration, especially when the horrors of the latter portion of this time are considered.

The dismal spectacle of their slaughtered comrades, the sufferings of their women and children, thus immured with themselves, and the hopelessness of relief, which destroyed any other motive for the obstinate defence they made, than that resulting from a high sense of duty, supported by unsubdued courage. This and a generous spirit of courtesy towards the

enemy, certainly marked the garrison of Kalunga during the period of its siege; whatever the nature of the Goorkhas may have been found in other quarters, there was here no cruelty to wounded or prisoners—no poisoned arrows were used—no wells of water poisoned—no rancorous spirit of revenge seemed to animate them. They fought in fair conflict like men, and in the intervals of actual combat, shewed us a liberal courtesy worthy of a more enlightened people; so far from insulting the bodies of the dead and wounded, they permitted them to be untouched till carried away; and none were stripped as is too usually the case. The confidence they exhibited in the British officers was certainly flattering. They solicited and obtained surgical aid, and on one occasion this gave rise to a singular and interesting scene. While the batteries were playing, a man was perceived on the beach advancing and waving his hand. The guns ceased, for a while, and a man came from the batteries; he proved to be a Goorkha, whose lower jaw had been shattered by a round shot,

and who came thus frankly to solicit assistance from his enemy.

It is unnecessary to add that it was instantly afforded. He recovered, and when discharged from the hospital signified his desire to return to his corps to combat us again; exhibiting thus through the whole a strong sense of the value of generosity and courtesy in warfare, and also of his duty to his country, separating completely in his own mind private and national feeling from each other. The remainder of the garrison of Kalunga with their commander Bhulbudder Sing, to the number of about seventy, retreated to a hill some miles off, where they were joined by three hundred men who had lingered in the neighbourhood for some days, endeavouring to throw themselves into the fort.

Major Ludlow with the force under his command, amounting to about four hundred men, moved on the afternoon of the 1st December to attack and dislodge them: he came up with them after a very fatiguing march, about one in

the morning of the 2nd, on very difficult ground on the hill where they had encamped for the night. They were on the alert, and the sentinel challenged our men, who rushed forward and fell on them, and dispersed them with much loss. They fled, pursued by our troops to the summit of the hill, where it was found necessary to desist and collect our men. Had they halted here, the end desired would have been obtained; but flushed with success that had been so easy, the few leading troops, in spite of the exertions of the officers to restrain them, still dashed on to occupy a further and stronger stockade, known afterwards, during the siege, as the second stockade—a very straggling line following them; the consequence was, as might be expected, that the enemy, alarmed by the first firing, had sent strong reinforcements towards the point attacked; and by the time the second stockade was endangered, these had nearly reached it.

Jespau Quarrè, the officer in command, see-

ing the disordered state of our troops and how few of them were together, sallied out from the stockade with no great number of men, bore down the leading troops who were running up the hill, put the rest to flight, and pursued them along the ridge which they had before won. Reinforced by fresh troops, the enemy followed up the charge, and our men, out of breath and panic-struck, could not be rallied. Major Ludlow and the other officers did all that was possible to make a stand; three times at rather favourable points, was it attempted to rally them, but as often, the Goorkhas coming up, they broke and fled; and at last, at the point were the crest had first been gained, our men dispersed down the hill on both sides, the Goorkhas following and cutting them up. The Goorkhas were at this moment swarming round the hill. The night was darkening around. The men were weary with their long march and a six hours' combat, and were exhausted by a want of water which there had been no means of

procuring for several hours. A retreat could not have been attempted under more unfavourable circumstances. The moment that the enemy saw our troops quitting the hill, they rushed in on all sides cutting down the stragglers. The ground was so steep and broken that it was impossible long to preserve order. Whilst descending a steep defile, the Goorkhas knowing the ground, attacked a party in advance, and thus caught our men in a double fire.

They then made their way in on all sides, and using the kookery, committed sad havoc. Lieutenant Thackery, of the 26th N.I., covered the retreat as well as it could be done under the confounding circumstances of the darkness and broken ground, till he and Ensign Wilson were killed with many men. The detachment, scattered and worn out, reached camp on the morning of the 2nd.

Our loss was severe, but it was not ascertained for several days, being lessened greatly

by the return of stragglers; at length it was reduced to four officers killed, five wounded—seventy-nine non-commissioned officers and privates killed, and two hundred and eighty-one wounded.

CHAPTER X.

THE WAR CONTINUED.

Sir David Ochterlony, who took the field at the same time with Gillespie, was opposed to one of the best officers in the Nepaul army. Umur Sing, in person, formed, from the first, a just estimate of the character of his enemy, and the difficulties he would have to contend with; he, therefore, resolved to proceed with caution, and on the 31st of October, the day Gillespie was killed at Kalunga, he reached Plasseea, situated in a valley within the hills which he entered from the Sutlej by a pass less difficult than those further east. Umur Sing was at this time at Urkee, considerably within the

hills; they run here in broken ridges, stretching N.N.W., and each ridge affords a series of positions; the outermost ridge was surmounted by the fort of Nalaghur, which, with an outpost, commanded the principle route into the hills. On the next range stood three small forts, above this again towered the heights of Maloun, and near which was the capital of Umur Sing's staunch ally, the Rajah of Belaspore.

Having garrisoned the forts of Nalaghur Hills, and reckoning that Ochterlony would be some time occupied before them, he was in no hurry to leave his position. Sir David, however, resolved on hazarding nothing, invested Nalaghur with his heavy guns on the 1st November; having breached the wall, the garrison surrendered on the 5th. Having established depôts at the captured forts, Sir David proceeded on the 13th against the Ramgurh positions, sending on Colonel Thompson with a brigade one day's march in advance.

The position of Ramgurh was so steep on the sides next the plains, that Sir David

determined to turn it, if possible, and act on its rear; these ridges, it may be observed, are all so many steps to the vast Himalaya snowy range; each, therefore, as it nears that stupendous range, towers over that before it, and as you look from the plains, the steeper side is always opposed to you. Ramgurh stood nearly in the centre of the ridge, and formed Umur Sing's right; and Ochterlony, in advancing from Nalaghur, turned his left, and in November had seized a point from which he hoped to be able to batter one of the stockades of that wing. By the end of November, after incessant labour, in making roads and dragging up guns, a battery was constructed; but when it opened, the stockade was found to be almost out of range, and the shots had little effect. Lieutenant Lawtie, the engineer, observing this, advanced with a small party to reconnoitre another point further on; the Goorkhas sallied out to prevent it, and obliged him to seek the shelter of a wall that stood near: his critical situation being perceived, Lieutenant Williams

was sent with two companies from the battery to support the reconnoissance, but a much larger body came down to the Goorkhas and surrounded the whole party, who thus found themselves under the necessity of fighting their way through the enemy to secure their retreat. The movement was successfully executed, but with the loss of poor Williams, who was killed besides seventy-five Sepoys.

This affair was of no further consequence than it gave the enemy an occasion of triumph. The Nepaulese, however, permitted us the next day to remove and bury the dead, a courtesy they certainly never refused us during the war. Sir David Ochterlony was busily engaged all this while in surveying and improving the roads, and reconnoitering Umur Sing's position on every side. By the first week in December, he was enabled to form a plan of attack, the object of which was to make a lodgment on a point within the position; the proposed advance was to be made from the battery above mentioned, and was a dangerous under-

taking in consequence of there being but one road to the position, and that laid under fire of one of Umur Sing's principal stockades, which the advancing column would have to receive on its flank, probably followed by a sally from the garrison as it passed. However, seeing no other way of inflicting a heavy blow on the enemy, Sir David submitted the plan to his two Brigadiers, Arnold and Thompson to obtain their opinion of it. The propriety of making the attack was still under deliberation when the news arrived of our second failure before Kalunga, and Ochterlony hearing of a reinforcement being on its way to his own force by direction of Lord Hastings, determined to abandon the plan and to hazard nothing. Sir David at this time had many serious doubts of our ultimate success in the struggle, and he feared that our native army with its well known courage, and gallant officers, would be found ill adapted to a protracted warfare in a country too rugged to admit its discipline being brought in play. The gallant old general,

however, expressed his apprehensions on this point to none but the Commander-in-chief, nor could his most familiar associates detect in his manner the slightest interruption of that cheerful flow of spirits for which Sir David was characterized through life.

Sir David, while waiting the arrival of his reinforcements, successfully exerted himself in obtaining the services of the small chief of Plaseea, and usefully employed him in making a road for artillery N.N.E. of Ramgurh, where his head-quarters were for some time fixed. This was previous to his attempting any operations in Umur Sing's rear. About the end of December, another battalion of Native Infantry, with a train of light guns joined Ochterlony's force; he detached Colonel Thompson with two regiments and guns to attack two stockades that were opposed to his right, and were situated on a spur from the Ramgurh ridge projecting N.E. in the Goorkha commander's rear. These stockades were if possible to be carried at once, and another point on

which there was no stockade was to be occupied by Thompson's detachment, who moved off in the night, and late in the morning arrived near the first stockade, but delayed carrying it by a *coup-de-main*; he therefore moved on and occupied a ridge about eight hundred yards distant from a stone work thrown up by the enemy, and which was within a few hundred yards of the second stockade to be attacked. Here he halted for his guns to come up; on their arrival opened on the Deboo ki Tibia stockade until dark, hoping to effect a breach, but the rude defences of this nature quickly thrown up by the Nepaulese are often proof against light artillery, consequently no great impression was made, and Colonel Thompson was obliged to be satisfied by establishing himself on the ridge.

The Nepaulese not liking his close proximity, evacuated this stockade in the night, which was accordingly taken possession of by a party of our troops unopposed. The Nepaulese, however, employed themselves during the night in

concentrating their force, preparatory to a determined effort to dislodge our detachment. Accordingly, at the Nepaulese favourite hour of attack, viz., just before daybreak, they made a simultaneous rush from a stockade which crowned the heights of the Ramgurh ridge, at the point where it was joined by that on which Deboo was situated. The detachment, however, was well prepared for them, and drove back the Nepaulese with considerable loss, killing and wounding nearly three hundred of them, our loss being very small, twelve only killed, and fifty wounded, without an officer being touched. Sir David, on hearing the firing, sent a small force to reinforce the post. By the end of December, it was re-stockaded and well secured.

It must here be noticed that Ramgurh formed the Goorkha commander's right, as his position fronted the plains. Colonel Thompson's post was in the rear of his centre, so as almost entirely to intercept his supplies and interfere with his communications. On

ascertaining this, the Nepaulese general changed his ground, leaving all his stockades to the left of Ramgurh, and keeping that fort still at his right, took up a reversed position on the other side of it, so as to show a new front to our force, which had turned his left. The Goorkha commander likewise strengthened his head-quarters, Mungoo ki Dar. It was soon ascertained that the ridge which Thompson had occupied did not afford any means of approaching the enemy's main position, in consequence of the ground being particularly rugged; consequently, a different plan of operations became necessary; and about the middle of January, Ochterlony, still wishing to straighten the enemy's supplies, which, since the occupation of the Urkee and Subathoo roads, had been entirely drawn from Belaspore, executed a most masterly movement, by which he subsequently reduced Rutungurh, a fort, although separated from the ridge, lying directly between the heights of Maloun and Belaspore. Much time was consumed in reducing the Ramgurh forts, and

Ochterlony employed himself during the interval in bringing over the Belaspore Rajah; who, after some unsuccessful attempts to help the Goorkhas, had fled across the Sutlej. This Rajah, though connected with the Goorkha commander's family by a recent marriage, was at last induced, through the fear of losing his capital, to make terms and submit.

CHAPTER XI.

THE WAR CONTINUED.

I MUST now return to the more interesting operations in the Turais of Goruckpore and Tirhoot, with one parting word regarding Umur Sing, who not only proved himself a brave soldier, but often a very sagacious one, by the way in which he had often met and sometimes defeated the plans of the British commanders.

The division assembled at Goruckpore, was ordered to take the field by the middle of November, but was delayed in consequence of the great difficulty of obtaining hill-porters in that then thinly peopled district. It was there-

fore near the end of December, ere General Wood proceeded to the Turai, and having been detained for some time in obtaining information as to the best route for penetrating to Palpa, he first determined on leaving Bhotwal to the right, and attacking Nyakote, a post which crowns the hills to the west of the town. Ascertaining, however, that the Nepaulese under Wuzeer Sing, a nephew of Bhim Sen's, had posted himself at the mouth of the pass, in which Bhotwal is situated, and had thrown up a stockade, it was determined to reconnoitre and carry them, if possible, before proceeding further.

The first week in January, General Wood broke ground at Simra with two regiments of infantry to execute this plan; acting on the information of a Brahmin spy, in the employ of some of the old Palpa Rajah's family residing at Goruckpore, the priest offering himself as a guide. The route ran along the banks of the Tenavee, and the last seven miles through a Saal Forest; but General Wood had been led

to expect an open space about the stockade. The General himself was with his advance guard, in the thick of the forest, when they suddenly found themselves in front of the stockade, and not more than fifty yards off, which immediately opened a very destructive fire on the advancing party, and the General, Brigade-Major and engineer officer were both wounded, the latter mortally. This loss was sustained in attempting to reconnoitre the post, preparatory to the advance of the main column headed by her Majesty's 17th Regiment of foot.

Immediately on its arrival, the officer commanding advanced against the stockade driving in the party who had sallied out against our advanced guard. The officer commanding the grenadiers followed the Goorkhas up the hill, and succeeded in ascending with his own, and two other companies of the regiment, by the left of the enemy's work; thus a position was gained that commanded it entirely, for it was only a hollow stockade running along the slope of the hill. The carrying of the work was

certain; indeed the enemy were already retreating from it up the hill behind. General Wood, however, thinking it was not possible to carry the hill also, while without doing so, the stockade itself seemed to him to be untenable, he ordered the retreat to be sounded to the great disappointment of his troops who were flushed with the certainty of an easy victory. Our loss in killed and wounded did not exceed a hundred and thirty, the Nepaulese lost a Sidar named Sooreg Thappa, and many more men than we did: but our retreat gave to them the triumph of a victory.

The result of this action, and the bravery the Nepaulese had displayed left on the British General's mind an impression of the inefficiency of his force for the objects assigned to it, and which, unfortunately, influenced all his future measures. Instead of at once endeavouring to penetrate the hills, he confined his operations to defensive precautions; and at his solicitation parties of irregular cavalry were added to his force, to repel the enemy's numerous incursions

on the plains. Native reports magnified the Nepaul army to twelve thousand men, instead of which, at that place, their regulars were scarcely as many hundreds; and the General crediting these reports, threw up works at a small post on the direct road to Goruckpore to defend it, while he moved with his main force to impel an incursion into Nichloul. Such movements contributed only to make the enemy bolder, besides producing considerable alarm in our own subjects, which it must be admitted was not altogether unfounded, for scarcely a day passed without some British village being plundered and burnt by the Nepaulese. This state of things continued during the three really available months for punishing the Nepaulese, viz: January, February, and March; and even though in the latter month reinforced, by another native battalion and some artillery, General Wood still hesitated to act offensively. Unfortunately what had happened simultaneously on this frontier, and to the eastward, tended to confirm the enemy's impression of our timidity.

I must now relate the operations in that quarter.

Major Paris Bradshaw, our negociator, remained during the rains in military charge of the frontier, and the disputed lands of Sumroun; as I have before mentioned, his established posts were not molested, nor had he many communications with the Nepaulese until October, when some alarm began to be entertained at Khatmandoo at the extensive preparations making by us, and although determined to concede nothing if possible, still thought they it worth their while to try and amuse the British government with further negotiations, so as, if possible, to spin out the season of operations in idle discussion.

In the month of November, Chunder Seekur Opadeea came down to the Turai and sent information to our frontier political officer that he had a letter and presents for the Governor-General, and desiring a passport to enable him to proceed to Calcutta with them, a piece of assurance, and at such a

time, that a Goorkha alone would have perpetrated, in proof of which it will hardly be believed, that the letter in his possession was one of congratulation, and in the form usual on the arrival of a new Governor-General, and was written as if there were no matters whatever in dispute between the two governments. Our political officer sent Chunder Seekur a copy of the proclamation of war, issued on the first of the month, and refused to let any one pass, or to receive the Brahmin himself, unless he came furnished with full powers to treat for peace. The letter was duly forwarded to the Governor General, who approved of the political agent's proceedings, and directed that Chunder Seekur be requested to return to Khatmandoo, or remain on the frontier at his peril.

Notwithstanding this intimation, Chunder Seekur lingered in the Turai, and attempted surreptitiously to obtain a passport from the Tirhoot magistrate, who he fancied would not be aware of the circumstances, and was

still intriguing for this purpose, when Major Bradshaw, having heard of General Marley's crossing the Ganges on his way to Turai, resolved to defer active operations no longer, but to attack the Nepaulese post of Burhurwa, situated on the right bank of the Bhagmuttee river, and close to the frontier, preparatory to occupying the whole Turai for the British government. Accordingly, he concentrated his force at the end of November, and on the morning of the 25th, surprized and carried the post, killing the Nepaulese commander Pursuram Thappa, and making prisoner of Chunder Seekur with his attendants. Bradshaw, by this means, obtained possession of the Brahmin's instructions, which entered fully into the points at issue between the two governments, and completely showed the real object of the deputation to have been merely to gain time.

The Nepaulese pretended to be very indignant at the seizure of the Brahmin, who they now wished to say should have been respected

as an ambassador, since he had been deputed as such; conveniently forgetting, however, that the reception of the individual or the sanctioning of his deputation at least, is the thing that plights the faith of the government to whom an agent is accredited, and that this alone gives a claim to the respect of *person* enjoyed by the envoy of a hostile power, and distinguishes him from a spy.

Lieutenant Boileau, who commanded the political agent's escort, a very gallant and distinguished officer, was wounded in a personal conflict with Pursuram Thappa, during the affair. The Turai was immediately evacuated by the Goorkhas, and occupied and annexed *pro tempore* by proclamation to the British dominions, Major Bradshaw establishing the following posts for its defence until General Marley should arrive: the head-quarters of the Chumparun Light Infantry was posted at Baragurhee; a wing of Native Infantry at Sumunpore, to the right, while Captain Sibley was stationed with five hundred men at Pursa,

on the high road to Hounda, a good way to the left of Baragurhee.

General Marley arrived at the Turai with the principal part of his division, about the middle of December. An outpost had been driven in by the Nepaulese in the early part of the month, and though they kept within cover of the forests, had shewn early symptoms for active hostile operations. Their attempts at poisoning the wells and pools were discovered, and their spies were known to be actively engaged, many having been detected in our camp. General Marley formed his army into three divisions, intending to force the pass in person, by Bichako, with about two thousand men, while Colonel Dick, with about fifteen hundred, took the route of Hurreehurpoor to the eastward, and Major Roughsedge, with twelve hundred men, moved by the Sukteeduree Pass, which is between the other two. The rest of the force was to be ready to support either division that might need it, and keep open the communications through the forests

till the arrival of the brigade allotted to this duty had arrived.

The month of December, unfortunately, was spent in devising this plan, and in collecting information for its execution; in the meantime the main army was stationary, and, except that Major Roughsedge was at one time sent to the extreme right, the force remained as before. That commanded by Captain Sibley was twenty miles to the left of the main army, and Captain Blacknoy was nearly as far to the right, and both without support; and notwithstanding the length of time they had occupied their ground, no efforts had been made by either officer to fortify his position. The consequence of this was, the Nepaulese determined on a simultaneous attack on both positions.

The main army of the Nepaulese was collected at Muckwanpore, opposite the British outpost of Mullye, and commanded by Rundher Sing, and the forest was in possession of different parties, who were always on the alert, and Rundher having exact intelligence of the

positions occupied by Sibley and Blackney, ordered them both to be attacked at daylight on New Year's Day. Shumshere Rana, or the Rana Kajee, as he is now known in Nepaul, commanded the party sent against Pursa, and Surbjeet Thappa that which attacked Sumunpore. Both were styled captains; viz., commandants of independant companies, or corps, in the Nepaul service, and were well known by their countrymen for their determined bravery and skill. Captain Blackney was completely taken by surprise by Surbjeet, who attacked him before daylight on the new year. He and his second in command were both killed on the first alarm, and the attack had not lasted ten minutes before our Sepoys, who had but partially rushed to their arms on the alarm, became for the moment panic-stricken; confusion ensued, and the Sepoys at last fled in every direction.

The Nepaulese having now penetrated to the centre of our camp, and set fire to the tents one British officer only escaped: finding all

order gone, he retreated with a small detachment with great difficulty. Our communications having been cut off, it was found impossible to retire to our original position. Captain Sibley, however, was more on his guard at Pursa, where many circumstances had led him to expect an attack — he had indeed only recently reported his apprehensions on this point to General Marley, who, at the end of December, sent him a reinforcement. His post was more than twenty miles distant, as before mentioned, and the detachment having marched the evening before, most unfortunately encamped on the road. On New Year's morning, however, firing having been heard in the direction of Pursa, the officer commanding quickened his march, and got within three miles of the position before the firing ceased. The arrival of fugitives, however, soon explained how the affair had terminated.

It appeared that the Rana Kajee attacked in three columns; but Sibley's advance had been thrown considerably forward, and the ground

of the position lay between two mountain streams, the windings of which allowed the Nepaulese to penetrate sufficiently on either flank, so as to cut off the front and rear communications. The latter was left to the defence of a small body of irregular cavalry, and was consequently a weak point in a night attack.

The first attack was checked by our advanced guard; but the officer commanding finding himself pressed, requested the immediate assistance of a light gun from Captain Sibley, which was with his detachment. Sibley immediately brought it forward himself; but when placed in position, the cartridges unfortunately were found too large to enable it being served efficiently. The action had now commenced on both flanks, and Sibley found it necessary to return immediately, and on his way back was mortally wounded by a shot through the body from parties of the enemy, who, taking advantage of the winding of the mountain

stream, had come close upon our line of communication with the advance. His second in command was now summoned to the front, and as the firing was heavy in his rear, he determined on taking his advance-guard with him. On reaching the line, he found that the Rana Kajee, while he had kept the detachment employed in front and flanks, had made his principal attack from the rear, and having overpowered the irregulars, had penetrated even to the officers' tents, and taken possession of the magazine and bazaar.

The 6-pounder with the detachment had been turned towards the rear by the artillery officer, and on the advance-guard joining, they formed square, and defended themselves as well as they could, but from the cover afforded the Nepaulese by the jungle, they picked off nearly all our artillerymen; and it now became apparent to both the officers, that unless they dislodged the Nepaulese from their position, they would be all annihilated, and on endeavouring

to induce their men to charge, they found them disinclined, and expended nearly all their ammunition by firing at random.

A retreat now was determined on, which was effected with great difficulty by crossing one of the mountain streams at a place where it was barely fordable, but at a time fortunately when the Nepaulese were intent on plunder; many were thus saved, but the two guns, magazine, and stores of every kind fell into the enemy's hands and this detachment, originally consisting of five hundred fighting men, had three hundred and eighty-three of them killed and wounded in a very short time. The activity and enterprise of the Nepaulese in these attacks were so unexpected by General Marley, that he began to entertain serious apprehensions for his train of heavy artillery then coming up from Betteah.

Having, however, strengthened his post, the general himself determined upon making a westward movement to cover his train, and further, beginning to consider his force insufficient, at once abandoned all idea of penetrating the hills

in the manner indicated in his instructions. His two brigadiers, however, agreed with him in reporting the force under his command not sufficient for offensive measures in the hills. The Marquis of Hastings was grievously disappointed at all these untoward occurrences, and strained every nerve to increase the strength of all the divisions, but particularly this one, from which so much was expected. All the military stations in Upper and Lower India were drained of troops to furnish reinforcements; but although troops were available, it was found a more difficult matter to restore confidence in the mind of the commander.

General Marley, notwithstanding the high state of the equipments of his army, and the daily approach of fresh troops, remained totally inactive during the whole of January; he did indeed perform a few marches in the *open* Turai, but never once ventured into the forest. Almost daily orders arrived from head-quarters, urging that some effort at offensive measures should be at once made. When, however, he began

to deliberate upon the plan he ought to adopt, he became distracted by the different opinions entertained by those he was in the habit of consulting, and came in the end to no resolution. A similar fatality, we might add, but only with more dreadful results, attended the chief and his council in later disasters in Affghanistan.

In the meantime, the Nepaulese, growing daily more insolent, burnt several villages belonging to us, at no great distance from our camp, besides threatening immediately to attack Baraghuree, where we had upwards of a thousand men cantoned. They threw up a stockade at Soofee, a short distance from the post, and had become so self-confident from the hesitation on the part of their commander, and their past successes, that orders were issued under the red seal for an immediate attack. Their commander however, Bhuget Sing, was better informed than the council at Khatmandoo, and very wisely for them refrained; the Court, however, were dissatisfied with his reasons, charged him with cowardice, and summoned him to the capital

for disobedience of orders, and on his arrival made him appear in open Durbar attired in woman's clothing, as wanting the spirit and courage of a Goorkha. The Nepaulese, however soon found that British petticoats were very deceptive, although to the mortification of our troops, and not much to the credit of the British commander, they continued to insult us with impunity for nearly a month longer.

In the middle of February, General Marley unable longer to endure the irksomeness of his situation, and feeling himself unable to carry out the wishes of his Commander-in-chief, determined upon the sudden and extraordinary resolution of at once leaving his force, and set off before daylight in the morning without notifying his intention to the troops, or even taking any means for providing for the ordinary routine of command during his absence. Lord Hastings had, however, fortunately previously appointed another commander for this force; but the unaccountable step adopted by General Marley seemed to him to demand his imme-

mediate and permanent removal from the staff; he, however, kindly permitted him to invalid.

General George Wood was now ordered up from the Presidency to succeed General Marley; in the meantime the senior Brigadier assumed the command until his arrival. Our operations so far had been a series of disasters; the gallant Ochterlony alone had not been foiled: he was steadily pursuing his plans by slow but certain measures, but had as yet gained no signal advantage over his cautious antagonist. General Martindell's division had failed three times, twice before Kalunga, and the third time before Jythuk. Moreover, the total loss sustained by this division amounted to nearly a third of its numbers that originally took the field from Meerut. The force assembled at Goruckpore had allowed itself to retire before the enemy under circumstances amounting almost to a defeat, and as recorded the Behar division, which was thought strong enough to have penetrated to Khatmandoo, had lost two detach-

ments of five hundred men each, without an equivalent success of any kind.

On the Oude frontier too, our armies wer completely held in check on the outside of the forest, while our territory was insulted with impunity, and most extravagant alarms spread throughout the country. We had lost nothing, it is true, on the Purneah frontier; on the contrary the co-operation of the Sikhim Rajah had been gained, the communication had been opened by an overture on his part, accompanied by a request to be supplied with military stores. In this quarter, also, the attempt made by the Goorkha commander in the Morung, to cut off our outpost stationed there, had failed, and their repulse was highly creditable to our officers and troops; but as the position was evacuated the following day, we had therefore little to boast of in the victory. Major Latter indeed was led by the vigorous nature of the attack to solicit the aid of some reinforcements, then on their way to the Sarun force, and thus by withholding them from their destination,

yielded the enemy some advantage from the attack, notwithstanding its failure.

The alarms of the civil authorities of Tirhoot had produced a similar diversion in that quarter, and it was not until the beginning of March, that the division destined for the main attack was augmented to the full strength proposed for it.

CHAPTER XII.

THE WAR CONTINUED.

THE uniform success which had hitherto attended the Nepaulese, produced in the beginning of 1815 an effect on the public mind, in the independent portion of India, which is more easily imagined than described, although naturally jealous of our preponderance and suspicious to a degree of any relinquishment of our pacific policy, the generality of the native powers had so little knowledge of the strength and resources of the Nepaulese, that the war at first excited but little attention, they regarding it as a mere affair with a troublesome frontier Rajah. As

one reverse, however, followed another, speculation became more rife, and the events of the campaign became a subject of greater interest, until at last more than one of the then independent native courts began seriously to think the time had arrived for taking advantage of our reverses.

Runjeet Sing, the ruler of the Punjaub, kept a large army at Lahore, and seemed to threaten us on the N. W., while Ameer Khan collected his Pitān battalions, and made an ambiguous offer of his services from a point only a few marches from Agra. The tone, moreover, assumed in Scindia's Durbar and at Poonah, was anything but conciliatory, and the intrigues then set on foot throughout the whole independent parts of India, and which led eventually to such important results, date their commencement from this period; and in proportion as their existence manifested themselves, it became the more necessary that we should conquer the subsisting difficulty in the hills, for the supremacy of the British

government was now felt to be committed on the issue. The Marquis of Hastings, however, never once doubted the ultimate success of the campaign, and despite the unfavourable aspect of affairs at the commencement of 1815, there were abundant reasons for a just confidence with those who looked beyond the surface, for every check our arms had experienced was clearly owing to a want of due precaution in those who directed the operations, and this was an error as surely remedied as felt. Our several encounters although often unfavourable in their result brought more strength in the lessons of prudence they inculcated than any physical loss we sustained. It must be remarked, the Sepoys at this time had been for a considerable period unused to war, and although open to the influence of panic occasionally from the strangeness of the scene, and the novelty of their situation amidst the forests and mountains of this extraordinary region, soon recovered their want of nerve. The Nepaulese, on the other hand, were

perfectly satisfied with repulsing an attack or cutting off an outpost; they never pushed heir success beyond this, and were too deficient in military science as well as in physical means to assume a superiority in the campaign, or even act offensively on a large scale against any one of our divisions; their tactics in their hills were entirely defensive, so much so that however severely their assailant might suffer from the indiscretion of his first attack, they left him ample time to re-collect his force and approach again with more caution. To the officers of the Bengal army, in particular, the lessons taught in this war were very salutary; precipitancy and want of caution were qualities bred in them by an uninterrupted course of victory, from the days of Clive to those of Lord Lake, they had only to shew themselves and march straight against their enemy to ensure success; they consequently carried into the hills the same contempt of the foe, which their victories in the plains had engendered, and were taught only by dear

bought experience to make sufficient allowance for the entire change of circumstances in this new field of action. It must be allowed, however, that the Nepaulese were a brave enemy, besides having had considerable experience, for they had been continually waging war in their hills for upwards of fifty years, and knew well how to turn everything to the best advantage: caution and judgment were therefore more required against them, than boldness of action or decision.

It must here be remarked, that little advance was made in this campaign, until we had learnt to turn the same advantages to account against the enemy, by which they foiled us so often at the commencement, for with all our experience in Indian warfare, combined with the professional science of Europe, our officers found yet something to learn from the Nepaulese; from them we adopted the plan of stockading posts, which the nature of the campaign frequently rendered it necessary to place beyond the limit of prompt support. Had we adopted this plan

from the first, the detachments of Sibley and Blackney might have been saved. Sir David Ochterlony has the credit of first adopting it in our service, as the source, however, of prudence which occurred to his mind, and not disaster as was the case with others.

A few words will describe our operations on the Goruckpore frontier.' General Wood succeeded Marley in February, and singular enough, an event occurred only the day before, that completely paralysed the Nepaulese, giving considerable confidence to our troops. Young Pickersgill, a very active officer in the intelligence department, discovered, while out reconnoitering, a party of about five hundred Nepaulese at no great distance from the British camp; he immediately informed the senior officer, who assumed the command on General Marley's departure, and remained himself with a small escort to watch them. Colonel Dick strengthened Pickersgill's party with some irregular cavalry, following himself with all his picquets, in the hope of cutting off this detachment. The

Nepaulese, who had taken up a good position in a hollow, finding themselves unmolested by Pickersgill, and observing how small was his party, came to the determination of attacking him; just, however, as they had formed from their position for this purpose, they observed ur cavalry, of which arm, they have a most religious horror, and a further support advancing, hesitated, and attempted a precipitate retreat, when Pickersgill waited only to be joined by the cavalry to attack them, and did so most heroically, and cut the whole detachment to pieces. The Nepaulese were so confounded by this affair, that they hastily withdrew from every post they had established in the Turai, and on General Wood arriving next day, he found a free passage through the forest, not a Nepaulese being seen below the hills.

The season was undoubtedly very far gone for anything decisive to be undertaken. There remained, however, a month for him wherein to accomplish something to repair his predecessor's inactivity; and his force were all exceedingly

anxious to be at once led through the forest after the enemy, and even into their hills. Our new commander, fearing that the malarious season had arrived, and that he would be risking thereby the efficiency of his army, which now amounted to thirteen thousand men, contented himself with a long march to the eastward and back again, and by this time the season had actually closed without his seeing an enemy, burning only a few Nepaulese villages in retaliation for their many excesses, and marching wherever he heard the enemy were advancing. He was, however, greatly deceived by false rumours, and could not divest himself of the idea that his force was insufficient to do anything decisive against the Nepaulese commander. He reported to head-quarters that the Nepaulese had a force numerically greater than his own, and on being strongly urged by the Commander-in-chief of the necessity of ascertaining this point by coming at once in contact with the enemy, General Wood, in the month of April, again appeared before

Bhotwal, and on the 17th of that month, after making his dispositions, opened a very useless fire against the place for some hours. This manœuvre, as may be supposed, produced no useful result; the General, however, reported it as a reconnoissance intended to create a diversion by alarming the Nepaulese on this frontier. Meeting with no opposition, he laid waste the Nepaul portion of the Turai, and then marched into cantonments at Goruckpore. Fortunate, however, was it for the British army, that the want of decision and enterprize, shewn by the leaders of the two centre divisions of the army, was confined alone to that branch. Lord Hastings ascertained, while on his tour through Rohilkund, that the province of Kumaon, to the north of it, was nearly destitute of troops, the whole Nepaulese force having been required from thence to oppose the British divisions, operating to the east and west. It occurred to him immediately, that a diversion in this quarter would greatly distract the enemy, by

increasing the points of attack, and would further prevent them sending reinforcements to Jytuck.

It was also well ascertained that the people of these parts of the hills were not only disaffected towards the Nepaulese, but would hail the day when they should be released from their control, for the Nepaulese not only held them in rigorous subjection, but constantly seized not only themselves, but their women and children, and sold them as slaves to enforce their arbitrary exactions; their alienation, therefore, was well calculated upon, as likely greatly to aid the projected enterprize. We had few regular troops at this time to spare, from the threatening attitude of several independent states, while the constant demand for reinforcements to the several divisions already near and in the hills were so urgent as to require every disposable man. Lord Hastings, therefore, determined upon availing himself of the use of the warlike population of Rohilkund, who were principally Patans, a race of soldiers, and trained

from their infancy to the use of the sword and matchlock; brave, but impetuous, and not easily subjected to discipline. Accordingly Rohilla levies were immediately ordered, and officers selected for raising and commanding them.

In February 1815, Colonel Gardner with his new levy, marched from Kasheepore, accompanied by a relation of his in political employ, the Honourable Edward Gardner, who shortly afterwards became our first Resident in Nepaul. By the middle of the month, this force reached the foot of the first pass, dislodging a piquet of the enemies, and from here they first descried a Nepaulese force stockaded on the summit of an elevated position which overlooked the entrance to the pass, while another body of Nepaulese occupied a fort considerably to the right. After reconnoitering the two positions, Gardner determined to force them, and if possible to get before them and Almorah. He effected his object, and encamped for the night at Ookul Danga, and after considerable

skirmishing, by the end of March had pretty well established himself; and reinforcements having arrived to him from Meerut, he by the end of March had out-manœuvred the Nepaulese commander, and found himself established in the rear, and within sight of Almorah.

On the morning of the 23rd, in order to draw off the enemy's attention, a feint was made for attacking a position in front. This was a well-concerted movement, for it was not before twelve o'clock in the day, that the Nepaulese discovered its object by finding the new levies taking up their position at a temple in the rear of them. Gardner, now satisfied with the success of his manœuvre, waited till the following day to see its effect on the enemy; and by two other successful movements, and almost without any loss, effectually established himself in the centre of the province. His conciliatory conduct, and that of the Political Agent, the Honourable Edward Gardner, effectually succeeded in gaining the good-will of the natives of those hills, who not only well supplied the bazaar of his

camp with supplies from their villages in the hills, but also furnished him with useful intelligence of all the enemy's movements.

In the end of March, Lord Hastings determined on effectually supporting Gardner, and to enable him to follow up his successes, sent a force of regular infantry with artillery for this purpose. Colonel Jasper Nicolls, at that time Quarter Master-General of the Queen's troops in India, and afterwards in 1840 Sir Jasper Nicolls, Commander-in-chief in India, was selected for this service, and had placed under his command a force of two thousand men, indifferently officered in point of numbers, and ten pieces of artillery. Our operations before Jytuck, combined with the probability that the tranquillity of Central India would not be disturbed that year, were the circumstances alone that enabled the Governor-General to spare the troops of the regular army for this service, but two months previously it would not have been prudent to have done so.

In April, Colonel Nicolls entered the hills and

joined Gardner. On his way, however, he heard of the defeat and capture of Major Hersey, and of the reduction of all the posts he had established to guard the line of the Gogra. The Court of Khatmandoo, deeming all safe for the season to the eastward, determined on an effort to relieve Almorah, and (they hoped) eventually Jytuck; and for this purpose ordered a force into Kumaon, giving the command to Hustee-dul, then governor of the adjoining province of Dotee. Having collected all the detachments of his province, this chief crossed the Kalee about the end of March.

Major Hersey, besides being engaged in blockading one of the principal forts, also attempted the defence of a wider line along the river Kalee than his force justified; his men were too much detached to be made available on an emergency; nevertheless he gallantly hastened to meet the enemy with the few men he had, and fell in with him on the first day's march. His force, being all raw levies, deserted Hersey after the first fire, and he was

wounded and made prisoner, after which all the posts he had garrisoned with these raw Patans were deserted, and the men hastened back to the plains in the utmost confusion. This defeat unfortunately created an unfavourable effect on the inhabitants of the province, and had not the support been on its way to Colonel Gardner, its influence on the raw troops of his force might perhaps have ended by our relinquishing all the advantages hitherto gained.

Colonel Nicolls having been informed of the defeat, and of Hersey's being made prisoner, hastened to join Colonel Gardner, and did so a day or two before the Nepaulese commander rrived with his British prisoner at Almorah. The Nepaulese announced this event by firing a royal salute, which was both heard and seen from the British camp.

About the end of April, the Nepaulese Governor once more left the town with a considerable force upon some expedition, the object of which was not immediately apparent. Our commander observing the movement, dispatched

a force to intercept them; the two detachments soon found themselves close to one another, and both moving up an eminence; and it now became a subject of dispute who should first gain it; the Nepaulese however got up first, but the British advance guard attacked them before they had time to make arrangements for their defence, and were immediately dislodged with considerable loss; the Nepaulese commander himself being among the killed. Hustee-dul was an active and brave officer, and his loss was severely felt by his nation. After several affairs with the Nepaulese, in which our loss amounted to upwards of two hundred in killed and wounded, and the Nepaulese governor of the province, finding we had taken up a position within seventy yards of the fort of Almorah, and tha his situation was desperate, proposed on the following day a suspension of arms, preparatory to negociating terms of surrender. An armistic was granted, and the Nepaulese wounded officers came boldly into our camp to solicit surgical aid; they informed us without reserve of thei

extreme want of supplies, and allowed us to examine even the walls and defences of the place, thus showing a confidence not a little remarkable under their circumstances, and not at all in keeping with the usual mode of their proceeding. In discussing the terms of the capitulation, they made a rather determined stand to obtain an article in the proposed treaty, permitting five hundred men, destined by the government of Khatmandoo, to proceed westward to reinforce Runjoor Sing at Jytuck. This of course was resisted, but they would not give up the point until threatened with the renewal of hostilities, if the surrender was concluded by a given hour.

At last, on the 27th of April, a formal convention was signed by Colonel Nicolls and the Honourable Edward Gardner, on our part, and Chountra Bumsah and two other chiefs on the behalf of Nepaul. In this, the surrender of the province of Kumaon with all its fortified places was stipulated; and further, the retirement of all troops and officers of the Nepaul govern-

ment, within ten days, to the east of the River Kalee, the British engaging to furnish carriage for private property. Major Hersey's unconditional release was further stipulated. These articles were faithfully executed, and Colonel Nicolls having accompanied the surrendering troops of Nepaul to the Ghats of the Kalee River, disposed his force in the best manner, for the defence of that line, against any future attempt of the Nepaulese to molest our possession of the province.

The affairs on this frontier having now been settled, General Martindell's proceedings must be noticed. He, after the failures in December on the Sarun frontier, became so firmly persuaded of the insufficiency of his force to do anything against the position of Jytuck, a most formidable position it is true, that he lay perfectly inactive at Nahn. In the interim, several reinforcements reached him, besides which the Commander-in-chief kept continually urging him to the re-commencement of active operations. Towards the beginning of February, a

light battalion was detached from Nahn to occupy the post of Nounee, and being supported by another battalion, Major Kelly advanced to a point called Black Hill. This post being within range of our heavy guns, it was determined to carry up some 18-pounders to batter the first of the stockades; the side of the hill was pioneered for the purpose, and by great exertions guns and stores were taken up this most difficult ascent, the operation exciting considerable astonishment. The Nepaulese ventured as near as they dare to witness it, but made no attempt to prevent it. In the meantime, Runjoor Sing's communications were left quite open, and besides the reinforcements carried to him by Bhulbudder Sing, others were continually joining.

In February, intelligence reached camp of a party being on its way to Jytuck from the Jumna; an officer was accordingly detached with a body of irregular cavalry to intercept it: not finding the enemy at the point expected, he returned; but more correct intelligence having

been obtained, he again marched with all the irregulars, amounting to upwards of two thousand men, and found the Nepaulese strongly posted. Not deeming it advisable to trust his raw recruits, with an immediate attack on the position, and relying on his superiority of numbers, he posted detachments where he thought they could most annoy the enemy and cut off communications with Jytuck. The Nepaulese force did not amount to two hundred men, but finding their situation a desperate one, they determined to fight for it, and perish in the attempt. Having prepared themselves, they advanced quietly, and when quite close delivered their fire. They charged, khokery in hand (their war-knife), the nearest post of irregulars. These unfortunately became panic stricken and gave way immediately, and were pursued in the utmost confusion by the Nepaulese to the next post, where the panic also quickly spread, until the whole party took to flight in spite of the utmost efforts of their officers to induce them to face the enemy.

This unlooked-for result of their intrepidity enabled the Nepaulese to continue the march to Jytuck without further opposition, and gave them so much confidence, that they never afterwards failed to attack *irregulars* whenever placed within their reach, and often when stockaded.

The 18-pounders from the Black Hill were opened against the first stockade in the middle of March, and in a few days a battery was erected in a more advanced position. The effect of one day's fire of the last battery was to level to the ground the whole stockade; but the General, instead of following up the advantage by an immediate attack, which all the troops were eagerly expecting, came now to the conclusion that his present plan was an injudicious one; for that if carried, he said, the post could not be maintained against the force Runjoor could bring up in rear of it.

It must thus be recorded, that with an European regiment, and a force of at least five thousand regulars, the Major-General still

thought it a dangerous step to bring on a general action with an enemy, who had never more than two thousand five hundred men at the utmost. This excessive caution was the unfortunate consequence of the earlier disasters related; but it was a feeling that none of the officers or troops of the division participated with the General, and under the circumstances was quite unwarranted. The vacillation exhibited, in the adoption and abandoning of these different plans, was strongly commented on by the Commander-in-Chief. It seemed to him that the practicability of reducing the stockades by battering them in succession, could as well have been determined upon before bringing up the guns, and unnecessarily wasting so much labour and ammunition, whereby more than a month would have been saved for the prosecution of any other plan.

After relinquishing the hope of gaining any useful end by the heavy artillery, the General, about the end of March, determined on surrounding Runjoor by detachments, and thus

blockading and starving him out. Sir David Ochterlony, he now perceived, had effected much by directing his efforts against the supplies of the enemy, and there could be but little doubt of the efficacy of the same system at Jytuck, though the end of March was rather late in the season to commence such an operation.

In execution of this new plan, a post was seized on the eastern ridge connected with Jytuck. The officer commanding the party had to make a considerable circuit to bring his detachment to a place where the ascent could be made with artillery; and keeping his files as close together as possible, he cautiously advanced to gain the top of the ridge on which the Nepaulese were posted in considerable force. They allowed our troops to come within forty yards before delivering their fire. The post, however, was overpowered with much loss, and Major Richards followed up his advantage along the ridge to a point where the Nepaulese seemed disposed to make a determined stand.

The Major halted just time enough to allow his reserve to close up, and then attacked in two columns, and carried it, making at once preparations to stockade it against any effort to recover it, which he expected Runjoor might make with his whole force. The Nepaulese, however, hesitated, from the preparations they witnessed, and by the past failure, and allowed Richards to establish himself securely.

In the above affair, the Nepaulese commander, Ujumber Punt, who, with two hundred Goorkhas, had defeated the irregulars under Lieutenant Young, was taken prisoner, and of the thirteen hundred men that composed his force, one hundred and ten were killed, and one hundred and fifty wounded; the British loss was trifling, being only forty killed and wounded, including two officers; however, notwithstanding the lateness of the period, at which this plan was adopted, there can be no doubt that this operation would have effectually reduced Jytuck had not its

fall been hastened by other means. The glory, however, of receiving the surrender of Jytuck was reserved to Sir David Ochterlony, whose further successes remain to be recorded.

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